

issue: **21**
vs Bolton Wanderers

npower Championship
Pride Park Stadium
19th February 2013, KO 19.45

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Official Matchday Magazine of Derby County Football Club



ONE-ON-ONE

Swiss born defender **VALENTIN GJOKAJ** speaks exclusively to **THE RAM** about settling in England, his first international cap for the Albania Under-21s and his first-team debut for the Rams.

DISHING THE DIRT

MICHAEL HOGANSON spills the beans from the dressing room on tight-fitting luminous gear, pointless tweets and Albanian rap music.

ANCIENT V MODERN

Legendary targetman **DAVE SWINDLEHURST** and **STEVE HOWARD** go head-to-head.

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SAM RUSH

Good evening and welcome back to Pride Park Stadium on behalf of everybody from Derby County for tonight's npower Championship match against **BOLTON WANDERERS.**

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the staff, players and fans of our visitors to Pride Park for our second home game in quick succession against a club recently relegated from the Premier League.

It has been significant this season to see that clubs returning to the Championship after a spell in the Premier League have found the acclimatisation very difficult. We know from past experience that the two leagues are very different and the attributes required for success are not necessarily easily ported from one to the other.

It will be interesting to see whether the proposed changes to financial regulation within the Football

League will allow for a more level playing field in the coming seasons and a greater variety of teams gaining promotion to the Premier League. In any event, I am certain that our blend of young talented players and



more experienced seasoned professionals will give us the very best opportunity to take our chance to reach that ultimate goal.

With finances on our mind, the topic of Financial Fair Play was high on the agenda at the Football League meeting I attended on behalf of Derby County at the end of last week, and we will continue to monitor its impact and compliance.

Other topical discussion points included the regulation of loan signings and the opportunity for the progression of safe standing. We have received a commitment from the Football League that they will undertake a feasibility study into the creation of standing areas within stadia and we will work with them as we understand what is required to make this a realistic option for clubs.

We will, of course, continue the dialogue with supporters regarding this subject over the coming months. Given governmental regulation this is not an immediate prospect but if we can create options for clubs we will have succeeded.

We are now comfortably in the final third of the season, and as ever in the Championship, every club has a real desire to secure points as the season remains very much alive. Night games

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at Pride Park always have a special atmosphere, so please do get behind the team and drive us on to another great home performance.

Thank you for your continued support and up the Rams!

Sam Rush

President & CEO

Derby County

the manager... **NIGEL CLOUGH**

Good evening and welcome back to Pride Park Stadium for what we expect will be another extremely tough npower Championship encounter against **BOLTON WANDERERS**.

Tonight's game will be our last midweek fixture under the floodlights on home turf this season, although we do have two Friday night matches coming up in March. There's always something special about night matches here at Pride Park. Maybe it's the anticipation of waiting for the game all day or just playing under the lights, but it always seems to create a positive atmosphere around the place.

That said, there's a positive feel around the club anyway after the draw with Wolves at the weekend and our form throughout the season. The lads were

a bit down after the defeat at Hull a few days earlier, especially when you consider the amount of effort they put in to get back level, only to lose the game in the final minute. But they responded in superb fashion to grind out a point against a side who were plying their trade in the top-flight of English football a year ago.

People may look at Wolves' league position and say it was a game that we should have won, but football doesn't always work like that. That is why beforehand, we made the point that their league position should not come into anyone's thinking and instead

focus on the quality of their squad, which has the ability to hurt the very best the Championship has to offer, on their day.

A point was a fair result on Saturday and we were happy with that, although the players were naturally disappointed we didn't win

the game. Goalless draws are few and far between at Pride Park but a clean sheet with a patched up and young back-four was just one of the positives to pull away from a very tight match, as well as the fact we probably would have lost that game a season or two ago.



Kieron Freeman, 20, was part of a patched up back-four against Wolves

Given our exploits at Sheffield Wednesday and Hull City the players once again gave everything they had to ensure that if we couldn't win the game, we didn't lose it either. That's a sign of progression from the team so hopefully we can go to the next level of turning those draws into victories.

We've said on many occasions we have a fairly young squad, but we took things to a new level on Saturday by naming a starting XI with an average age of just 23. There wasn't a player out on the pitch for us over 26 years of age and given we were up against a side boasting experienced players such as Karl Henry and Kaspars Gorkss, it could have been a tricky afternoon for us. We've got faith in the young players, and clearly they have it in themselves.

With Gareth Roberts suspended we stepped our efforts up to bring in a left-back on loan last week, but we weren't able to do so before the Wolves game and we were happy to hand Michael Hoganson his debut. Michael is 19 years of age, performed very well indeed and took his form from our Under-21 side into the first-team.

Looking ahead to tonight's game with Bolton, they are somewhat like Wolves in that they have found life difficult in the Championship this

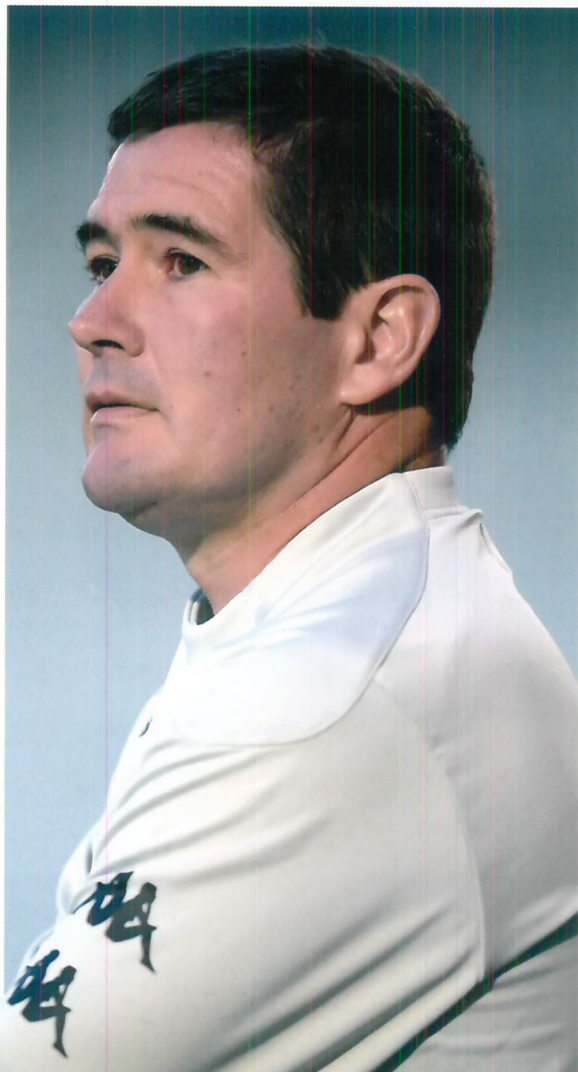
season after coming down from the Premier League. They've found results hard to come by and have been looking over their shoulder in the last few months, but you wouldn't back against Dougie Freedman pulling them away from trouble. Dougie did a good job at Crystal Palace in his first managerial role, making them hard to beat, and I would like to welcome him and his staff to Pride Park tonight.

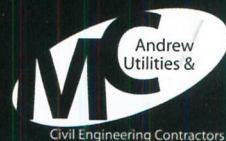
They have Premier League experience and quality littered throughout their side and they've also had a few good results as well of late, picking up a local derby win over Burnley and drawing at Nottingham Forest in their last two matches. With those good results comes a bit of confidence, so they'll feel upbeat, no doubt, at keeping their unbeaten run going.

The games keep coming thick and fast and the honesty and determination of this squad to pull on the Derby County shirt, keep the club moving in the right direction and improve as players, makes us look forward to every game - and we hope that their belief has transferred to all of our fans throughout the season.

Enjoy the game and thank you for your support, as always.

Nigel Clough





DERBY COUNTY END OF SEASON AWARDS DINNER

1st May 2013



TO BOOK PLEASE
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Latest News

MACKAY HONOURED ON STAMP SET

Former Derby County player and manager Dave Mackay is featured on a new set of stamps as Royal Mail marks the 150th anniversary of the establishing of the rules of Association Football, and the 140th anniversary of the Scottish Football Association.

The stamp set celebrates 11 of the greatest football heroes from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales and includes a star-studded line-up.

Mackay, who won 22 caps for Scotland, made 145 appearances for the Rams between 1968 and 1971 after Brian Clough signed him from Tottenham Hotspur, and he went on to win the Second Division title in a Rams shirt. In 1974-75, he returned to



manage Derby to the First Division title.

The stamps feature the 11 heroes in their home nation strip, and are: John Barnes (England); Gordon Banks (England); George Best (Northern Ireland); John Charles (Wales); Bobby Charlton (England); Jimmy Greaves (England); Kevin Keegan (England); Denis Law (Scotland); Dave Mackay (Scotland); Bobby Moore

(England) and Bryan Robson (England).

Fans can pre-order the stamps today by registering at www.royalmail.com/footballheroes. From 9th May 2013, the stamps will be available online at www.royalmail.com/stamps, by phone on 08457 641 641 - and in 9,000 Post Offices across the UK.

GOAL OF 2012 DECIDED

Craig Bryson's stunning goal in Derby County's 2-0 win at Leeds United last season has been selected as the Rams' top strike of 2012.

The Scottish midfielder curled home a sublime 30-yard effort into the top corner to break the deadlock in last season's success at Elland Road, and he saw off four other excellent goals scored by Derby in the calendar year in an online poll to come out on top.

Bryson's strike has now been entered in the Mitre Goal of the Year category at the Football League awards 2013. Details as to if the Scottish international has made the top 10 shortlist will be announced later this month, and the overall winner will be decided at the glittering awards ceremony at The Brewery, London on Sunday 24th March 2013.

The other goals selected for nomination were: Gareth Roberts vs Doncaster (March

2012), Jamie Ward vs Charlton Athletic (September 2012), Theo Robinson vs Blackpool (November 2012) and Nathan Tyson vs Barnsley (November 2012).

BENNETT GAINS MORE ENGLAND HONOURS

Derby County striker Mason Bennett recorded three more England Under-17 caps to his name last week, but he was unable to help the Three Lions retain their title as winners of the Algarve Tournament.

Bennett was named in the starting XI for their 2-1 loss to Germany before coming off the bench in their defeats to Portugal (2-1) and the Netherlands (1-0).

The 16-year-old now has 13 caps to his name for England's Under-17s, as well as two goals.



Bennett capped again for Under-17s

MATCHDAY PARKING MESSAGE

Derby County Football Club would like to remind supporters that the club provides a selection of official car parking locations at very reasonable rates on matchdays.

There are around 400 available spaces at the Railway Technical Centre (RTC), and around 230 spaces at Derby College, all offered at a low fixed price of £5. These sites are marked in blue and orange on the following map: http://wearederby.com/index.php?option=com_ramstravel&id=60

These sites are only a few minutes' walk to Pride Park Stadium, are staffed before, during and after each game and will enable you to get away following each match quickly and safely.

For all the latest Derby County news and interviews, head to dcfc.co.uk

vs bolton

MATCHDAY MATTERS

THE RAM previews this evening's npower Championship encounter between Derby County and Bolton Wanderers and looks at some previous encounters, as well as some quirky stats and facts.

HEAD TO HEAD

Our League record against Bolton is:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	57	37	12	8	132	62
Away	58	20	6	32	76	113
TOTAL	115	57	18	40	208	175

FIRST MET IN LEAGUE: 1888-89

DOUBLES ACHIEVED: 17

DOUBLES CONCEDED: 7

HIGHEST SCORING WINS

Home: 6-1, 1893-94

Away: 6-3, 1888-89

HIGHEST SCORING DEFEATS

Home: 1-3, 1946-47; 2-3, 1888-89 & 1964-65

Away: 1-7, 1889-90

LAST HOME WIN: 1-0, 2001-02

LAST AWAY WIN: 3-1, 2001-02

MEMORABLE MEETING

In the 1997-98 Premier League season, Bolton Wanderers fought back to force a 3-3 draw at home to Derby County in a breath-taking encounter.

Colin Todd's side looked down and out after Francesco Baiano side-footed his second goal of the game to put the Rams 3-1 ahead, however, the Trotters stormed back with goals from Nathan Blake and Jamie Pollock.

All the goals came in a frantic second-half, with Bolton breaking the deadlock in the 50th minute when Rams captain Igor Stimac tripped Per Frandsen in the box, leaving

Alan Thompson to convert the resulting spot kick.

But the goal sparked Derby into life, as Baiano set up compatriot Stefano Eranio who smashed the equaliser into the roof of the net.

Then the lively Dean Sturridge found room on the right, before seeing his cross half cleared and Baiano duly put the Rams ahead, prior to the pair combining again in the 69th minute that handed Derby a 3-1 lead.

But Bolton refused to give up as Blake sent a downward header into the bottom corner eight minutes later, before Pollock landed an almighty sucker-punch.

Frandsen carried the ball from the halfway line to cross to the far post and back-heeled it to Pollock, who drove the ball beyond Mart Poom to seal a point.

THE LINK

Colin Todd started his career with Sunderland and played a major role in the youth team's 1967 victory in the FA Youth Cup, led by Brian Clough.

In February 1971, Todd was reunited with Clough at Derby County for a British record transfer fee for a defender of £175,000.

Todd formed a formidable partnership with Roy

LAST HOME DRAW: 1-1, 2007-08

LAST AWAY DRAW: 3-3, 1997-98

LAST HOME DEFEAT: 0-2, 1981-82

LAST AWAY DEFEAT: 0-2, 2012-13

LAST HOME LEAGUE MEETING

FA BARCLAYCARD PREMIERSHIP

Saturday 29th September 2007

DERBY COUNTY 1 (Miller 19)

BOLTON WANDERERS 1 (Anelka 32)

HT 1-1 Att: 31,503

DERBY: Bywater, Mears, Davis, McEveley, Leacock, Oakley, Jones (Barnes 64), Pearson, Lewis (Teale) 84), Howard, Miller.

Subs not used: Griffin, Moore, Earnshaw

BOLTON: Jaaskelainen, J O'Brien (Braaten

71), A O'Brien, Meite, Speed (McCann 62),

Gardner, Campo, Diouf, Nolan, Anelka, Davies (Wilhelmsson 59).

Subs not used: Al Habsi, Giannakopoulos.

McFarland and helped Derby win the First Division title in his first full season at the Baseball Ground, before collecting a second title winner's medal under Clough's successor Dave Mackay in 1975.

He moved on to tonight's opponents Bolton in 1992 as assistant to Bruce Rioch. However, after Rioch left to manage Arsenal, McFarland switched to Bolton as joint-manager alongside Todd.

When McFarland was dismissed in early 1996, Todd took sole charge of the club; however he was unable to prevent Bolton's relegation, although he guided the Trotters back to the top-flight by winning the First Division in 1996-97, ensuring Bolton's new stadium would host Premier League football.

Bolton struggled in the top-flight and were relegated again at the end of the season. Todd led the club to the Play-off Final in 1999, but lost to Watford, and he resigned seven games into the 1999-2000 campaign.

FIRST MEETING

The teams first met in the Football League, in the 1888-89 campaign. That day, the Rams secured an emphatic 6-3 victory, with Lawrence Plackett grabbing two goals in the process.

OVERALL RECORD

In the overall 122 meetings between the two teams, the Rams have a 48.36% (59) win rate over Bolton, compared to the Trotters' 36.89% (45), whilst the sides have battled out a total of 18 draws.

PRE-MATCH FORM

- * Crystal Palace 0-0 Bolton Wanderers (npower Championship)
- * Bolton Wanderers 1-2 Everton (FA Cup Fourth Round)
- * Watford 2-1 Bolton Wanderers (npower Championship)
- * Bolton Wanderers 2-1 Burnley (npower Championship)
- * Nottingham Forest 1-1 Bolton Wanderers (npower Championship)

KEITH CHAPMAN INTRODUCES TONIGHT'S MATCH REFEREE MR GAVIN WARD.

From: Surrey
Joined Football League list: 2007

Bio: Ward has been on the Football League list since the 2007-08 season.

He refereed his first match between Barnet and Hereford in August 2007. He last refereed Derby County back in March 2012 when the Rams drew 1-1 at Bristol City.

The Surrey-based referee has shown 91 yellow cards and 10 red cards in 27 games this season.

REFEREEING STATS - THIS SEASON (2012-13)

Games: 27, Yellow cards: 91 (3.37 average per game)
Red cards: 10 (0.37 average per game)

PREVIOUS DERBY COUNTY GAMES OFFICIATED

Date	Competition	H/A	Opposition	Score	Y	R
31/3/12	Championship	A	Bristol City	1-1	2	0
15/1/11	Championship	A	Watford	0-3	3	0



TONIGHT'S MASCOTS

After entertaining Wolves at the weekend, Derby welcome another former top-flight side tonight, with mascots **Mitchell Chapman** and **Matthew Watson** hoping to inspire a premier performance.

Matthew, aged 11, attends Scargill CofE Primary School and is a yellow belt in Judo, while Robbie Savage remains his favourite player.

Accompanying Matthew in leading the first-team players from the tunnel is seven-year-old Mitchell, who celebrates his birthday next Monday. A member of Derby's Development Academy, he enjoys kick boxing and BMX and regards Jamie Ward as his top Ram.

Bolton's players will not be alone this evening though. Eight-year-old **Harry Coombs**, who enjoys WWE wrestling and triathlons, will be with them before kick-off. He has a soft spot for Stuart Holden and Chris Eagles.

Rammie's Special Guest is **Finley McKeown**. A Will Hughes enthusiast who enjoys football and watching the Super Rams!



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Derby's previous goalless draw at home was in October against Brighton

Saturday 16th February 2013
npower Championship
DERBY COUNTY 0
WOLVERHAMPTON
WANDERERS 0
Att: 23,036

Derby County: Legzdins; Freeman, Brayford, Keogh, Hoganson; Coutts, Hendrick, Hughes (Jacobs 63), Bryson; Ward, Sammon.
Subs not used: Fielding, Gjakaj, Davies, Robinson, Doyle, Bennett.

Wolverhampton Wanderers: Ikeme; Foley, Gorkss, Batth, Ward; Doyle (Ebanks-Blake 70), Edwards (Peszko 89), Henry, O'Hara (Davies 74); Sigurdarson, Sako.
Subs not used: De Vries, Berra, Doherty, Cassidy.

Nigel Clough: "We don't have too many stalemates here at Pride Park but it's a good clean sheet for us and our second in as many home matches.

"We're never happy with a 0-0 draw at home, as we've proved we're more than capable of scoring goals, but given we had a patched up back-four and a starting XI with an average age of 23 we will take a point against a side who were in the Premier League 12 months ago.

"We knew Wolves would be up for a fight and it was a proper roll-your-sleeves up type game, as they are fighting for their lives and there weren't too many chances."



Richard Keogh clears his lines



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POSSESSION

Derby 55% Wolves 45%

ATTEMPTS ON TARGET

Derby 5 Wolves 3

**ATTEMPTS OFF
TARGET**

Derby 4 Wolves 5

CORNERS

Derby 5 Wolves 5

FOULS

Derby 9 Wolves 14

BOOKED

Derby: Hughes

Wolves: Henry, O'Hara.



Richard Keogh powers a header goalwards



Michael Hoganson in action



Former Ram Dean Saunders directs Wolves' play

Michael Hoganson: "I was nervous to begin with, but once I got the first few touches and passes out of the way, I thought I relaxed and eased myself into the game."

"I was concerned that fitness might be an issue; I have never played 90 minutes at this level before. I am not going to lie, at one point I was looking at the clock expecting there to be five minutes left and there was still half-an-hour."

"This was the biggest game of my career; I had goosebumps all over my body when I walked out and saw all the supporters."

"The clean-sheet is huge for me, as a defender that is exactly what you want and it came in a game where we were up against a tough, ex-Premier League team."



Craig Bryson fires a shot in



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shaun barker

CAPTAIN'S BLOG

Good evening and welcome back to Pride Park for tonight's game against **BOLTON WANDERERS**.

My latest club appearance was at a Football Forum at Hughesy's old place of education, Repton High School last week. It's an absolutely stunning building to have as a school and it pretty much confirmed to me that he must have a butler to serve him in one of his many wings at his family home.

To say I'd be happy sending a child of mine to this particular setup is an understatement. Class and sophistication seemed to ooze out of the 16th century bricks - which made my place of education [Bramcote Hills Comprehensive] years ago feel a like pre-prison institution in comparison! I was there as part of a panel of four - which included our

Chief Executive Sam Rush, Burton Albion Assistant Manager Kevin Summerfield and referee Phil Dowd.

Questions were fired at us all throughout the night and it was very interesting because each person on the panel have different roles and views on the game. It was a surprise that myself and Mr Dowd agreed on a lot because, let's be honest, I'm sure it

would be the exact opposite on the pitch!

Each question was answered honestly and often quite amusingly and by the end of the night the organisers had announced they had raised a significant amount of money. It was an extremely relaxed evening and I'm sure Sam came away relieved he didn't have to talk about season tickets, transfers or finances - which is normally the case at forums!

A question that wasn't asked at the forum, but has been common over the last few months is, what do I do on a daily basis?

Although I'm over 11 months into my rehabilitation, I'm still at the early stages. I know that sounds strange but with such a substantial injury the first stage is slow and unbelievably boring. Each day I spend around two hours icing and over an hour getting a flush - a massage to help encourage the swelling to drain and

relax muscles to improve mobility.

I'm now at the stage to go on an exercise bike in moderation and also it's rewarding to get back into the swimming pool. I'm using it to improve my cardiovascular work, as well as the range of motion for my knee which is imperative. I've joined in with the other lads while they're doing the Yoga work, but I also have my own personal sessions too.

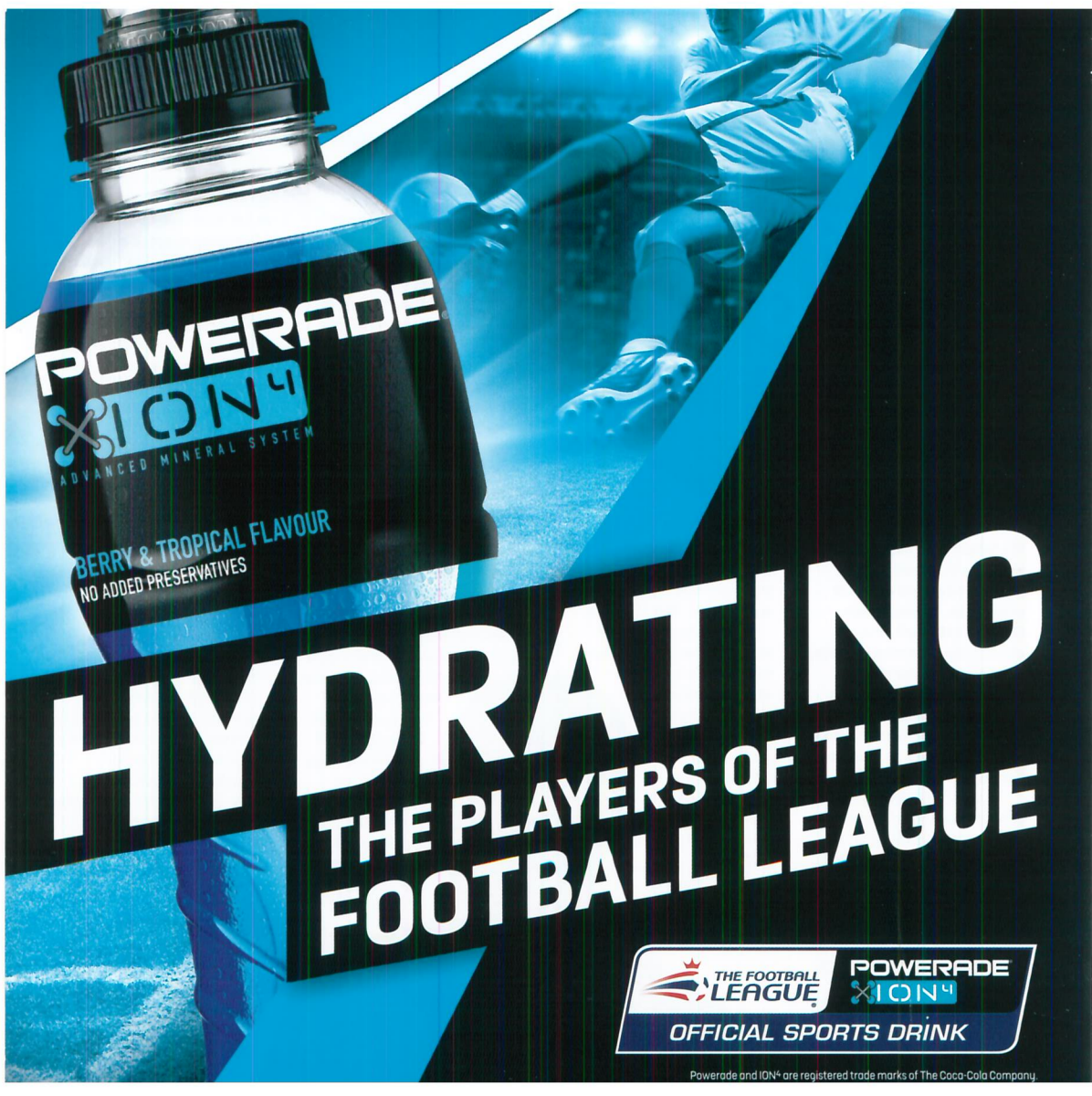
When there's 25 lads doing Yoga, in an supposed relaxed atmosphere, you hear strange noises and smells from different angles! Nick, our instructor, came to do a session a few weeks ago in extremely tight shorts and spent the first 30 minutes absorbing abuse from the lads... he's wisely worn trousers ever since!

Although my days are repetitive and not particularly interesting, more demanding sessions are creeping through on a weekly basis, which is beneficial in keeping a positive and enthusiastic state of mind. The more progress I make, the more excited and impatient I seem to get for my return!

Thanks for the interest as always in my progress and I'll be keeping you updated when any large steps forward are made.

Barks





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in pictures...

CLARKE IN FOCUS

Throughout the 2012-13 season, Derby County Club Photographer Andy Clarke has been going behind the scenes to capture exclusive images for **THE RAM** - as well as picking his favourite match images along the way.

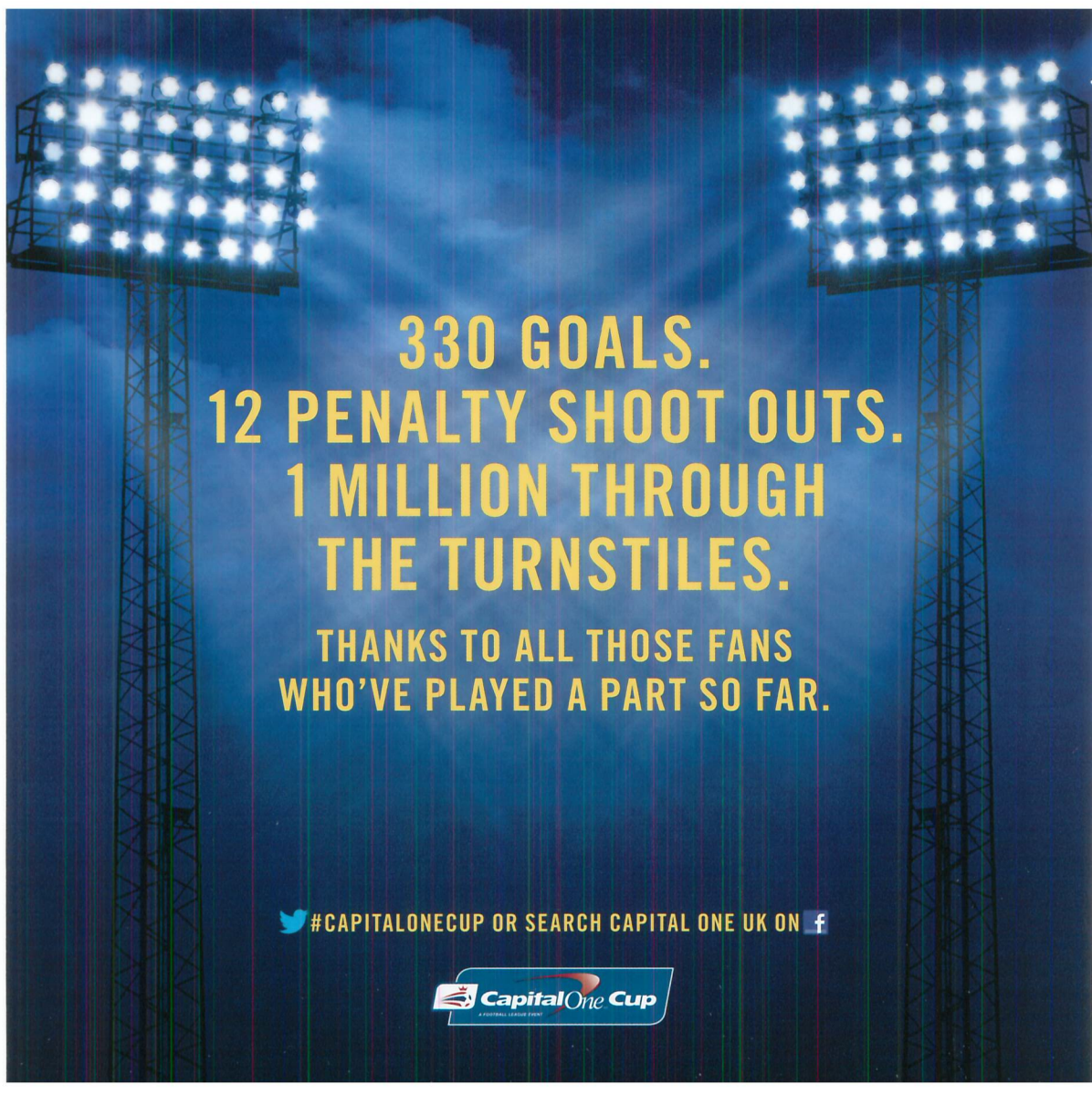
Tonight, Andy has provided a shot from the training ground at Moor Farm.

Andy's View: "A few weeks ago, players from Derbyshire County Cricket came down to Moor Farm to train with the players as part of an arrangement between the two clubs - and I was asked to get a few shots for the website and the Derby Telegraph.

"There was some real end-to-end action as the Gaffer mixed up the teams for a seven-a-side tournament containing four teams.

"It was great to see two local sporting teams come together as one and after the session had finished the Gaffer, who is into his cricket, spent quite a while chatting to their players about their upcoming First Division campaign."



The background of the entire advertisement is a photograph of two large stadium floodlights at night. The lights are turned on, creating a bright glow against a dark blue sky with some clouds. The floodlights are mounted on tall, dark metal towers. The scene is symmetrical, with one floodlight on the left and one on the right.

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Will Hughes suffered a groin injury on Saturday

With a quick turn around since our last fixture, which was three days ago against Wolves, the emphasis is on recovering and preparing straight away for tonight's game.

Will Hughes picked up a groin injury on Saturday, and was being assessed ahead of today's game. However, other than Will, the remainder of the squad came through the weekend relatively unscathed.

Again we will be without Jimmy O'Connor, Mark O'Brien and Jake Buxton as they recover from their knee injuries.

Jimmy should return to full training next week, and we know Mark will be absent for a further three weeks. Jake

Neil Sullivan



had a fitness test ahead of the Wolves fixture and although he is close to returning to action, he wasn't quite right on Saturday. However, we are hopeful that by the end of this week, Jake will back in full training and available for selection once again.

ON THE FUNNY SIDE

Kieron Freeman was sat having lunch with a couple of his team-mates ahead of the Hull fixture last week. He was explaining that his daughter has been suffering with a bit of a cold recently: "I didn't sleep too well last night," said Kieron.

"Oh, why not?" they asked...

"My little one was having trouble sleeping. She has got a blocked nose, and she doesn't know how to blow it."

"How old is she now?" was the reply.

"She's 12 weeks now," said Kieron.

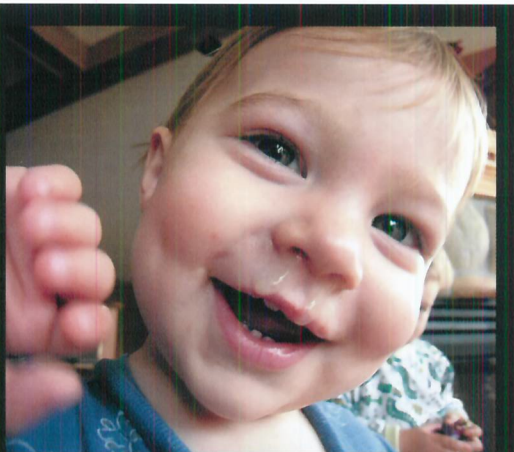
"Well no wonder she doesn't know how to blow it yet. Do you just wipe it for her?" was the response.

"Well I did try to do that but, I find the best way is to just suck it."

"What do you mean? Suck her nose?"

"Yeah, I suck the snot out of her nose... that gets rid of it."

There is the perfect example of daft, unconditional love for your child!



Bogey sucking! Surely not Kieron?

A full-page photograph of Valentin Gjokaj, a footballer, in a dark blue Derby County training kit. He is looking off to the side with a focused expression. The kit features a 'Kappa' logo on the right chest, a Derby County ram crest on the left chest, and a 'buy mobiles.net' sponsor logo across the front. The background is a blurred outdoor setting, likely a training ground.

one-on-one

VALENTIN GJOKAJ

The combative hard-hitting defender talks exclusively to **THE RAM** about his Championship debut for Derby, his international aspirations with Albania and settling in at Pride Park.

By Joe Questier

The premise of having a 'hard as nails' 19-year-old residing with a cheeky Geordie teenager in Derbyshire, may sound like the early workings of a Channel Five sketch show. However, there is no storyboard, screenplay nor script, as it is in fact two of Derby County's summer recruits' living arrangements.

Earlier this year, the Rams snapped up Valentin Gjokaj from Swiss club FC Lucerne on a two-year deal for a nominal fee, after the defender impressed as a trialist in Derby's pre-season friendlies against Mansfield Town, Burton Albion and Northampton Town.

Whilst 11 days prior to the signing of Gjokaj, Nigel Clough bolstered the recently-formed Under-21 development squad with the addition of former Newcastle United left-back, and boyhood Magpies fan, Michael Hoganson.

It may sound like an unlikely pairing, but the duo have settled into life in the East Midlands remarkably quickly. So much so, that Gjokaj and Hoganson have been near ever-presents in Derby's Under-21 side, and at the time of writing, the team sit second, behind Leicester City, in the Division Two North Professional Development League.



The hard-hitting defender was on loan at Carlisle in December

And since joining the club, Gjokaj has been installed as the Under-21s' captain, and the Albanian Under-21 international admitted he is relishing the role and savouring every minute of life in England: "I enjoy every day at Derby; the lads are great and I feel like I am part of a big family here."

Gjokaj joined Lucerne at the age of 11 and spent six years at the club, helping them to become Swiss

Under-17 champions. Although he featured for the club's second team, he did not make a first-team appearance.

Trials with Newcastle and then Premier League side Blackburn Rovers came and went, until Clough handed the 19-year-old his first opportunity to play professional football in England.

And in an exclusive interview with THE RAM, Gjokaj reveals his pride

at playing professionally in the Championship, his thoughts on receiving his first international cap for Albania Under-21s and how it felt to make his first-team debut against Sheffield Wednesday at the beginning of the campaign.

How have you settled into life at Derby County?

I have settled in very quickly and I am very happy to be here at the club. I enjoy every day here; the lads are great, and I feel like I am part of a big family. I am sharing a house with Michael and it is going well; we share the cleaning and cooking, although he is the better cook!

"I HAVE SETTLED IN VERY QUICKLY AND I AM VERY HAPPY TO BE HERE AT THE CLUB. I ENJOY EVERY DAY HERE; THE LADS ARE GREAT, AND I FEEL LIKE I AM PART OF A BIG FAMILY"

“IT WAS A DREAM OF MINE TO PLAY IN ENGLAND, TO PLAY IN A BIG LEAGUE AND I AM VERY HAPPY TO BE PLAYING FOR DERBY. I KNEW ABOUT THE TRADITION OF THE CLUB, THE STADIUM AND THE AMAZING FANS, SO I HAD AN EASY DECISION TO MAKE”

Let's look back at the start of your career, who did you play for growing up in Switzerland and how did you find the standard of football?

I started off by playing for a local team called Buchrain, which is actually where my parents live now. I played there until I was around 11, then I went to Lucerne and that was my first big step in my career. I stayed there for six years, playing in every youth team, starting at Under-13s to Under-21s.

Last season I was captain of the Under-21s' team and I played very well, which was when an agent saw me and said I had the potential to play in other leagues. What I have learnt since training and playing over here is that the tempo is a lot quicker compared to football in Switzerland. The Swiss League is a good standard, but I think English football is in another world; it is quicker, the stadiums and supporters are amazing - especially when

you compare the 25,000 Derby fans at a home match compared to Lucerne's 8,000.

When did you first hear about the interest from Derby County?

I think it was in June after the season had finished in Switzerland. My agent had told me that Derby might be interested in taking me on trial. Because it was the pre-season break in Switzerland, I started training for the trial to be ready. When I came over to England I was nervous and excited, but I think with every trial game and training session that went by, the easier it became. After a few days at Moor Farm it felt as though I had been with the lads for five years.

I found the training tough; we did a running session and then I played in the pre-season game against Mansfield Town - again I was nervous, I

was only 18, but once the whistle blew I just forgot about everything and played my normal game.

There was some interest from Premier League sides at the time you agreed to join Derby, was it a difficult decision to join the Rams?

It was a dream of mine to play in England, to play in a big league and I am very happy TO be playing for Derby. I knew about the tradition of the club, the stadium and the amazing fans, so I had an easy decision to make. My trial at

Blackburn didn't work out for me because I was struggling with a knee injury.

There was also interest from Newcastle. They came to watch me play a game for Lucerne in Switzerland, but it was a game that the team didn't play particularly well in, so they lost interest. But I just worked hard every day, and I hoped I would get another opportunity to come over to England.

I understand your parents are originally from Kosovo, and your father comes to Derby games whenever possible. What have they said about your move to England?

My parents left because of the civil war and moved to Switzerland. My family are very happy for me to be playing football in England. My dad (Gasper Gjokaj) came to the Brighton game at Pride Park earlier in the season, and he was impressed with the size of the club and the stadium.

It was my dad's dream that I would be a professional footballer because his chances were ended by a bad injury. He was a striker, semi-professional, and was close to being a professional but then he broke his leg, then children came along, but he is very proud of me playing in England.



Are you naturally a centre-back, or have you had experience playing in a number of different positions?

When I was younger I was a striker but then I started to grow and was moved back. As well as playing as a central defender, I have also played as a holding midfielder. I have played for the Derby Under-21s as a central midfielder, which is nothing new to me, I can play there. My preference is to play as a centre-back though, but if it helps the team I am happy to play wherever I am needed.

You have played a big role in the Rams' Under-21s this season, how have you found playing and captaining the side?

On the whole, it has gone really well. I am very happy and proud to be the skipper of the team. I try to be a leader and help where possible, and I think everything is going well. We have won the majority of our games and went unbeaten for the first six or seven matches at the beginning of the campaign.

The Under-21s are mainly players that are training with the first-team squad, and I have learnt a lot in training, and by being on the substitutes' bench watching how Richard Keogh, Jake Buxton and James O'Connor play.



The 19-year-old has captained Derby's Development Squad this season

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60070**

VOTE



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OF TODAY'S motm**

You made your first-team debut against Sheffield Wednesday on the opening day of the season, how did you find the experience?

It was the best experience of my life. I was very nervous, and I had goosebumps and I know I only came on for a few minutes, but I was happy and proud. It was absolutely

"IT WAS ABSOLUTELY AMAZING TO PLAY AT PRIDE PARK IN FRONT OF SO MANY SUPPORTERS, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT"

amazing to play at Pride Park in front of so many supporters, I still can't believe it.

I was not happy that we ended up drawing the game 2-2, as I was hoping we could win the match. But it was the biggest experience of my career and hopefully there will be more like that to come.

You recently returned from a loan spell with League 1 side Carlisle, how did you find it at Brunton Park?

It was a good opportunity for me to get some game time under my belt, but it did not turn out quite as I expected. Carlisle do not have the same sort of facilities as here at Moor Farm, so we did a lot of work on an indoor pitch.

During my time there I ended up playing in one game and then Derby recalled me because the club were low on defenders. Ultimately it was a good experience for me though, to be part of a different team and match squad.

You made your debut for Albania Under-21s this month in a friendly at home to Macedonia, how proud a moment was that for you?

It was my first cap at international level, and it was a very tough game. I am very proud that I got

called up and it was a fantastic feeling to play for my country. It was great to come through the full 90 minutes too and hopefully I will get another call-up in the near future.

The manager was happy with my performance and said that as I am from one of the biggest clubs in the squad, he told me to use my experience to help the rest of the players out. Albania Under-21s haven't qualified for the tournament in Israel over the summer, but in March there is a tournament in Austria against three other teams. Then we have got qualifiers in June, we are in a very tough group including Spain, which I am looking forward too if I am selected.

You are still eligible to play for Switzerland, does that remain an option for you or are you going to continue with Albania?

Switzerland were interested in calling me up, but Albania did more work and contacted me to play for their national team, which made it an easy decision.

I have chosen Albania and I am not going to change my mind; it would not be right for me to change alliances and play for Switzerland now.



The Albanian Under-21 international made his Derby debut against Sheffield Wednesday.

15 years at...

PRIDE PARK

THE RAM'S season-long celebration of 15 years at **PRIDE PARK STADIUM** continues. This week we reminisce on the 2008-09 Championship campaign.



Leading scorer and Player of the Year for 2008-09, Rob Hulse

YEAR 12: 2008-09

Division: Championship

Position: 18th

League winners:

Wolverhampton Wanderers

Runners-up:

Birmingham City

Play-off winners: Burnley

Relegated: Charlton Athletic, Southampton, Norwich City

Leading scorer:

Rob Hulse (18)

Player of the Year:

Rob Hulse

The 2008-09 season was one very much of transition for Derby County as they suffered from a relegation hangover under Paul Jewell,



Nigel Clough takes over at Pride Park in January 2009

before Nigel Clough came in to steady the ship during the second half of the campaign.

After their disastrous Premier League experience in 2007-08, Jewell promised drastic changes during the close-season and his squad had a fresh feel about it by the time the new season came around. Rob Hulse, Jordan Stewart, Nathan Ellington, Paul Connolly, Kris Commons, Paul Green, Steven Davies, Martin Albrechtsen, Liam Dickinson, Przemyslaw Kazmierczak, Andrejs Perepļotkins and Nacer Barazite all arrived. There were also departures too, with old favourite Michael Johnson, as well as Rob Earnshaw, Kenny Miller, David Jones and Darren Moore heading to the exit door.

The first game of the new Championship season, at home to Doncaster Rovers, saw nine of Jewell's summer signings make their debuts (seven starting and two as substitutes), but the visitors claimed all three points to stun a sold-out Pride Park. Further defeats to Southampton and Barnsley meant Derby went into the first international break of the season with only a single point to their name.

They finally got their first win after the international break by defeating Sheffield United 2-1 at Pride Park, thanks to Hulse's winner against his old club. It sparked a seven-game unbeaten run which included impressive away wins at Queens Park Rangers and Norwich City, as Jewell's men surged up the table.

PRIDE PARK'S GAME OF THE 2008-09 SEASON

DERBY COUNTY 1

MANCHESTER UNITED 0

Carling Cup Semi-Final First-Leg

Wednesday 7th January 2009

Kris Commons's fierce strike gave Derby County a shock win in the first-leg of their Carling Cup semi-final against a star-studded Manchester United side, in what was Pride Park's most memorable game of the 2008-09 campaign.

In front of new boss Nigel Clough, who was to take charge the following day, the Rams made a bright start and took the

lead when Commons fired home after 30 minutes from the edge of the box.

The closest United came to an equaliser was a second-half Cristiano Ronaldo free-kick that flew inches wide. At the other end, Rob Hulse missed a golden chance to make it 2-0 when he fired over late on.

It was a humbling night for the Premier League, European and club world champions, who were deservedly beaten by a Derby side that had won only one of their last nine League games.

Unfortunately, United went on to win the second-leg 4-2 (4-3 on aggregate) to progress to the final at Wembley.

Derby County: Carroll, Connolly, Todd (Savage, 87), Nyatanga, Camara, Sterjovski (Teale, 58), Green, Addison, Commons, Hulse, Davies (Barazite, 81).

Subs not used: Powell, Hines, Bywater, Dickinson.

Manchester United: Kuszczak, R. Da Silva, Vidic, Evans, O'Shea, Anderson (Carrick, 74), Scholes (Ronaldo, 63), Gibson, Nani, Tevez, Welbeck (Rooney, 63).

Subs not used: Possebon, Giggs, Fletcher, Amos



Kris Commons fires home against Manchester United

But, as the winter months set in, Derby's form took a turn for the worse as they tasted seven defeats in 11 games to drop back down the table. That run ultimately cost Jewell his job, and he resigned on 28th December after a 1-0 home defeat to Ipswich Town. The signings of Darren Powell, James Tomkins and Luke Varney were his last throw of the dice, but Derby weren't able to find any consistency.

Burton Albion manager Nigel Clough was the man chosen to replace Jewell,

and he looked on from the Director's Box hours after his appointment as the Rams won the first-leg of their Carling Cup semi-final against Manchester United 1-0 at Pride Park.

After back-to-back defeats to Queens Park Rangers and Birmingham City in Clough's first two games, Derby went on a four-game winning streak against Coventry, Blackpool, Plymouth and Forest to haul themselves away from danger.

Meanwhile in the cup competitions, a Fourth

Round 1-1 draw with Forest at Pride Park set up a tasty replay at the City Ground, which Derby won 3-2 after falling 2-0 down early on, to book a Fifth Round tie at home to Manchester United which they eventually lost 4-1. Only weeks before, United dashed their Carling Cup Final hopes by turning round a 1-0 deficit from the first-leg to win 4-3 on aggregate to reach Wembley.

Clough freshened up the squad by bringing in Chris Porter from Motherwell,

as well as Barry Bannan from Aston Villa and John Eustace from Watford on a loan basis - while Robbie Savage was restored to the squad after falling out of favour with Jewell.

Derby's performances were drastically improved under Clough, as his new regime provided fresh impetus and a new lease of life after struggling to recover from the hammer blow of an immediate relegation from the top-flight the previous year.

Three wins in the last 14 games proved to be enough to avoid relegation, and that achievement allowed Clough to kick-start his rebuilding challenge - with 18th place a disappointing return in a season which had promised so much.

At Pride Park, Derby claimed nine wins, seven draws and seven defeats - with their home form proving to be vital in a season that saw them win on their travels just five times, losing 13.

DID YOU KNOW?

Chris Porter was Nigel Clough's first signing as Derby boss, arriving from Scottish Premier League side Motherwell for a fee of around £400,000.

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mike wilson is STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

Derby County's stats man **MIKE WILSON** has been statistically speaking for The Ram throughout the season, and tonight he takes a look at how Derby and Bolton have fared when they've faced each other in the past....

RAMS NOT CAUGHT WANDERING

Derby and Bolton are two of the founders members of the Football League and met at Pike's Lane in the first League meeting on 8th September 1888.

The Rams came from behind to win 6-3, but in the next 15 games to complete the first eight seasons, they won only five more times. In the next four seasons they lost only one of the eight encounters, with two draws and five wins.

The early 1900s were a barren time for the Rams against Bolton, as in their next 10 meetings Derby won twice to Bolton's eight. Included in this run was a sequence of five

consecutive defeats, between 1903 and 1907, where Bolton scored 10 goals without reply.

That spell continued up to and after World War I, with Derby not winning until 1926. From 1910-14, four games were drawn with Bolton winning the other two, and from 1919-1921, the Rams lost three out of four, managing just one draw as they once more slipped into Division Two. They did not meet again until Christmas Day in 1926, when Bolton won their home fixture 3-1.

Two days later the Rams at last gained a success with a 2-0 victory, which set them on a good run up to World War II. Both teams were in Division One at the time and in the

next 10 seasons leading to the break for hostilities, they lost only twice. Together with a 2-0 win in 1926, they won 18 of 21 fixtures, which included a run of eight consecutive wins from February 1929 to November 1932.

In the seven seasons following the War, until 1953, Derby won seven to Bolton's five, with two games drawn. The sides did not meet again until 1964-65, when Bolton did a 'double'. Derby achieved similar feats in 1965-66, and in 1968-69, when they achieved promotion to Division One.

There was a gap of 10 seasons before the teams met again, in 1978-79, when both teams won their home games. The Rams' success was the first of four consecutive wins, before the Trotters won the next three, and the following game ended goalless.

Derby were back to winning ways in March 1983 with a 2-0 win at Burnden Park, the start of a run of four wins in five games to April 1986. When they next met in October 1993, they won the next two, before Bolton won their home game of October 1994.

Derby won four and drew two of the next six fixtures from February 1995 to September 2007, but Bolton have won the last two games in January 2008 and this season in August 2012.

RAMS VS BWFC - AT DCFC (61 GAMES)

DCFC Wins: 39
BWFC Wins: 10
Draws: 12

RAMS VS BWFC - ALL TIME (122 GAMES)

DCFC Wins: 59
BWFC Wins: 45
Draws: 18



Bolton were 2-0 winners back in August

From The Academy

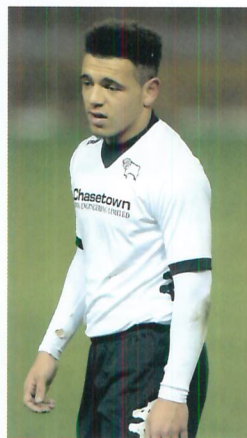
LFE AWARD FOR DERBY STRIKER

Derby County's Mason Bennett has been named as LFE's Apprentice of the Month for January 2013 after making excellent progress on and off the pitch.

Regularly involved with Nigel Clough's first-team squad, Bennett made a

memorable start to the new year by becoming Derby's youngest-ever scorer at 16 years and 174 days when he added the final goal in the Rams' 5-0 FA Cup Third Round win over Tranmere Rovers.

He now holds two records at the club as he was already the youngest-ever player to appear for Derby's first-team



Mason Bennett was the LFE Apprentice of the Month for January

"He's a very determined lad and I've been impressed to see him focus and catch up on his college work after he's been away with the first-team or on international duty."

Derby County Academy Manager Darren Wassall, added: "We are very proud of Mason's achievements and realise that the demands of first-team involvement, international duty, as well as youth team appearances, place a huge strain on an individual.

"He has managed this whole journey superbly and has maintained his high academic standards throughout. He is an excellent young ambassador for this football club."

To find out more about League Football Education, please visit: lfe.org.uk.

aged 15 years and 99 days old on his debut against Middlesbrough in October 2011.

"He's doing well in training and coming along nicely in terms of his development," said Clough.

Bennett's progression has not just been restricted to the pitch. In the classroom he is currently on target to pass his BTEC Diploma in Sport, NVQ and Level 2 Coaching award, a fact not lost on ex-Derby defender and LFE Regional Officer John Barton.

"It would be easy for someone like Mason to not be totally committed to his education programme, but he's very positive about what he wants to achieve," said Barton.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE 2 - NORTH

(All fixtures 11am unless stated)

DATE	OPPOSITION	VENUE/KO/SCORE
Sat 18 Aug	Leeds United	(h) 1-3
Sat 25 Aug	Leicester City	(a) 3-3
Sat 1 Sept	Sheffield Wednesday	(h) 1-2
Sat 15 Sept	Huddersfield Town	(a) 3-3
Sat 22 Sept	Nottingham Forest	(h) 1-3
Sat 29 Sept	Crewe Alexandra	(a) 1-2
Sat 6 Oct	Birmingham City	(h) 0-2
Sat 20 Oct	Sheffield United	(h) 2-2
Sat 27 Oct	Wigan Athletic	(a) 1-3
Sat 3 Nov	Leeds United	(a) 2-4
Sat 17 Nov	Barnsley	(h) 2-3
Wed 5 Dec	Sheffield Wednesday	(a) 1-2
Tues 11 Dec	Gateshead	(h) 4-0 FAYC 3
Sat 12 Jan	Coventry City	(h) 2-1
Wed 23 Jan	Ipswich Town	(H) FAYC 4 3-2
Sat 26 Jan	Huddersfield Town	(h) P-P
Sat 9 Feb	Crewe Alexandra	(h) 2-1
Thurs 21 Feb	Birmingham City	(a) KO 2.30pm
Tues 26 Feb	Manchester City	(H) FAYC 5 7pm
Sat 2 Mar	Sheffield United	(a)
Sat 9 Mar	Wigan Athletic	(h) KO 12.00
Sat 16 Mar	Barnsley	(a)
Sat 30 Mar	Leicester City	(h)
Sat 6 Apr	Coventry City	(a)
Sat 13 Apr	Nottingham Forest	(a)
Sat 20 Apr	Huddersfield	(h) KO 11.30am
Sat 4 May	Semi-final	
Sat 11 May	Final	

* Fixture to be played at Pride Park

Derby County Home Venue: Moor Farm Training Ground, Morley Road, Oakwood, Derby, DE21 4TB. Please note all fixtures and venues are subject to change. Derby County will communicate changes in The Ram and also on dffc.co.uk

YOUTH CUP CLASH A WEEK AWAY

In just seven days' time, Derby County's Under-18s will be doing battle with Manchester City at Pride Park Stadium in the Fifth Round of the FA Youth Cup - and Academy Manager Darren Wassall says the anticipation is rapidly building.

After seeing off Gateshead and Ipswich Town in the Third and Fourth Rounds of the competition, Derby will welcome the Premier League

ACADEMY STAFF

Darren Wassall - Academy Manager
Craig Short - Head of Recruitment
Darren Heyes - Youth Development Officer
Pat Lyons - Youth Team Coach
Jason Pearcey - Goalkeeper Coach
Sam McGregor - Academy Physiotherapist
George Polglass - Assistant Academy Physiotherapist
Adam Robinson - Head of Athletic Development
Simon Ord - Education & Welfare Officer
Richie Williams - Recruitment Officer
Denise Kirby - Academy Administrator
Lindsey Booth - Academy Administrator
Paul Cooper - Logistics & Kit Manager

ACADEMY 9-16s COACHING STAFF

Danny Holmes - Under-16s
Lee Glover & Lee Morris - Under-15s
Adam Barradell - Under-14s
Steve Doyle - Under-13s
Keith Gilroy - Under-12s
Adam Thorley - Under-11s
Richard Astle - Under-10s
Josh Butler - Under-9s



The Under-18s take on Manchester City next week

"There's always an air of excitement about playing at Pride Park, but when you throw in the fact we're playing on Manchester City into the mix, it just adds that little bit of extra spice.

"It's a great reward for the players but we certainly won't be lying down and letting City walk all over us, we'll be right up for it and aiming to make it to the next round. It won't be easy given the quality that Manchester City's youth ranks has within it, but we'll give it a right good go."

Wassall has called on Derby's supporters to head down to Pride Park for the game and drive his young guns on.

He said: "There's a feel-good factor about

the Academy of late and hopefully we'll get a few more people coming down for this game as well.

"It is a great chance for our fans to come and see what we have coming through the ranks, and equally it's a big thing for the lads to play in front of the supporters as well.

"I'd ask the fans to get down to Pride Park if they can and cheer us on, because the game has the makings of a great cup tie."

Season ticket holders can watch the game FREE of charge, while for non-season ticket holders admission is £3 for adults and £2 for concessions. Entrance to the stadium is via the Digonex Ticket Office.



Jamie Hanson scored against Ipswich

Champions' youth side to Pride Park on Tuesday 26th February (7pm kick-off).

Wassall's youngsters know what's required to pull off an FA Youth Cup shock after dumping Arsenal out of the competition last season, before eventually bowing out in a narrow 2-1 defeat away to Manchester United in Round Four, and he hopes his side can pull off another upset against City.

He said: "There's a real sense of anticipation for this game and with every passing day there is comment about the game, the lads are really up for it.

the story so far...

JAMES O'CONNOR

Throughout the season, **THE RAM** will tell you the story of a Derby County squad members' career so far. Under the spotlight tonight is defender **JAMES O'CONNOR**.

BIRMINGHAM BOY

Born in Birmingham, James joined Aston Villa's youth set-up as a youngster and progressed through their ranks to sign as a youth team player before penning professional terms at Villa Park in 2004 after regularly impressing in their youth and reserve sides.

Date of birth:

20th November 1984

Position: Defender

Squad Number: 16

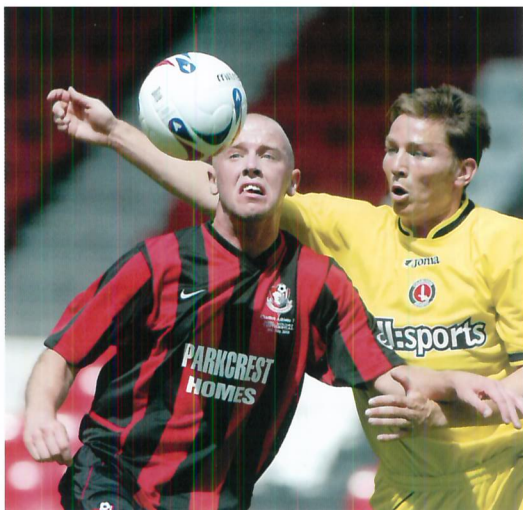
Nationality: English

FA YOUTH CUP JOY

In 2002 O'Connor helped Aston Villa to FA Youth Cup glory. He played his part in a 4-2 victory over Everton, after making his comeback from a spell out of action, and was also in the same youth system as Rams striker Jamie Ward, although Ward was a year younger. Everton's line-up boasted a young striker with bags of potential in the final, by the name of Wayne Rooney.

FIRST-TEAM EXPERIENCE

O'Connor's first taste of first-team experience in professional football, with



O'Connor made a loan move to Bournemouth permanent in 2005

his chances limited at Villa, came during a three-month loan spell at Port Vale early in the 2004-05 season. Vale, managed by Martin Foyle, were plying their trade in League 1 at the time and O'Connor's debut came in a 2-0 away win at Bradford on 4th September 2004. He went on to make a further 14 appearances at Vale Park, tasting victory on five occasions, before heading back to Villa.

SOUTH COAST SWITCH

O'Connor moved out on loan again before the end of 2004-05, spending a month on loan at AFC Bournemouth, who were also in League 1, and he made six appearances before returning to Villa once again. He went on to sign permanently for Bournemouth in the summer of 2005 on a free transfer

after impressing manager Sean O'Driscoll during his loan stint with the Cherries and went on to make 43 appearances in a season which saw Bournemouth avoid relegation by five points.

O'Connor scored his first-ever professional goal during the season, in a 2-2 draw away to Scunthorpe United in April 2006.

YORKSHIRE MOVE

O'Connor joined Doncaster Rovers in the summer of 2006, who paid over £100,000 for his services. The versatile performer immediately settled into life in Yorkshire, making the majority of his appearances at right-back.

He scored his first goal for the club in a 4-0 win away to Brentford and he also went on to lift the Johnstone's Paint Trophy with Rovers



The right-back made over 200 League starts for Rovers

after overcoming Bristol Rovers 3-2 at the Millennium Stadium, while during the season he was reunited with Sean O'Driscoll after he replaced Dave Penney at the helm.

PROMOTION JOY

After making 49 appearances in his first season at Doncaster, O'Connor went to make the same amount in 2007-08 - with Rovers securing promotion to the

Championship. O'Connor put in a Man of the Match display in the Play-off Final against Leeds, which Rovers won 1-0 thanks to a goal from James Hayter.

The majority of his performances came at right-back once again, while Gareth Roberts held down the left-back position on the opposite side.

CHAMPIONSHIP DREAM

O'Connor remained a key player in Doncaster's backline following their promotion to the Championship, and he made 36 appearances in 2008-09 as they retained their second tier status. He was in the starting XI on the opening day of the season as Rovers defeated Derby 1-0 at Pride Park, while his only goal of the campaign was a crucial one as they defeated Sheffield United 1-0 at Bramall Lane in a Yorkshire derby.

The following season, 2009-10, saw O'Connor's consistent displays rewarded with the Player of the Year award at the Keepmoat Stadium, and he again registered a single goal to his name, this time in the FA Cup away to Bradford City.

He remained a key player in 2010-11 too, making 37 appearances, and he scored Doncaster's first goal of the season in their 2-0 win at Preston North End on the opening day.

SAD END

O'Connor's final season at Doncaster proved to be a disappointing one. O'Driscoll departed for pastures new after a poor start to the season, and new boss Dean Saunders deemed him surplus to requirements towards the back end of the season. He still made 30 appearances though, but the season ended in relegation heartbreak as four-season stay in the Championship came to a close.

APPEARANCES RECORD

Derby County:

23 games, 1 goal

Career Record:

329 games, 7 goals

DERBY DELIGHT

Derby boss Nigel Clough swooped to bring O'Connor to Pride Park in the lead-up to the 2012-13 season for an undisclosed fee, citing his experience and versatility as two key reasons behind his arrival.

He made his Rams debut on the opening day of the season as a substitute in a 2-2 home draw with Sheffield Wednesday, and followed that up with his first start a few days later in a 2-0 loss at Bolton. He has performed right across the back-four this season and also got his name on the scoresheet in Derby's 2-0 home win over Barnsley in November 2012.



A League 1 Play-off Final winner with Doncaster



His first Derby goal came in November

michael hoganson

DISHING THE DIRT

Throughout the season **THE RAM** will be heading into the Derby County dressing room to catch up with a member of the squad to Dish the Dirt on their team-mates.

Who do you room with on away games, and what's he like?

As well as living with him, I room with Val on away games. We are the same age, so we try and have a bit of a laugh. He does just sleep the whole time though; you don't get anything out of him. Then when he's not sleeping, he has got his headphones on so he never speaks. I have also shared with Kieron too, he is a good laugh, but is always on his phone.

Who has the best nickname in the squad?

There are only the obvious nicknames really; Bryso,

Barks etc. There aren't any that stand out... I am trying to think of who has got a dodgy one. There's Luke Adams who we all call Kiwi because he's from New Zealand, and he gets the 'Dirk Kuyt' shout every so often.

Who is the worst timekeeper?

I am always in early, because since Mats (Morch) moved in he keeps us in check. I heard Theo was bad last year, but since I have been here he's always been on time. Before Tyson went out on loan at Millwall, he was pretty notorious for scraping in.



Richard Keogh is a bad loser in training

Who is the biggest moaner in the dressing room?

Richard Keogh. Nothing ever seems to go right for him on a Friday - I am normally on his team in training too and we always seem to get beaten. He hates losing so much; we all do but he is on a different level. He also hates people that don't track their runners.

Who is the worst dressed player in the squad?

Val. Some of the jumpers I have seen him wear, along with the hats, and the famous body warmer! The body warmer is like a black bin bag, it's disgusting. He loves luminous, brightly coloured gear, yellow and blue, he thinks it's 'class' - that's how he describes his clothes. I don't understand it; they are really tight fitting too.

Who spends the most time on their appearance?

Legzdins always gets a shout in this, but there are a number of the lads that like looking at themselves in the mirror. I have noticed Jeff is one of the sly ones; I always catch him doing his hair.

Who is the busiest member of the squad on Twitter?

Mason Bennett or Will Hughes. Will tweets stuff every day now and goes fishing looking for people to bite. But Mason is the most pointless tweeter in the world. Half the time I cannot understand what he is tweeting anyway because it's about some song he is listening to - he fills up my timeline.

Who is the hard man of the dressing room?

Bray has got a bit about him and doesn't seem to be scared of anyone. Bucko is a big lad too, whilst Val is a bit of a nutcase. I wouldn't start on him.

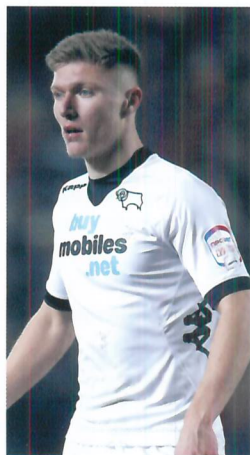
Who has the worst taste in music?

He has been slated all the way through, but Val and his Albanian rap music. If he ever asks you to listen to it, take his phone out of his hand and smash it. He asked me to listen to it once and it was some daft bloke on a random instrument, making

ridiculous noises. Mason deserves a little mention too for some of the rubbish he listens to.

Who isn't the sharpest tool in the box?

I would say there are three contenders for this. Jeff makes me laugh so much with the stuff he comes out with, whilst Mason is just thick. Jeff didn't have a clue what a Dyson vacuum cleaner was, which shocked me; he thought it was a cutlery set. Mason has the body of a 30-year-old but the head of a 10-year-old. Tom Naylor is the third candidate, but they all make me laugh, if you have them together it is hilarious.



Jeff Hendrick thinks Dysons are cutlery sets



frank fielding

MY FIRST, LAST, AND EVERYTHING

This season, **THE RAM** is giving supporters a further insight into the life of the Derby County players, with a short, sharp and quickfire interview.

MY FIRST

First team you played for?

The first junior team I played for was 'Oggy Hotspur' at the age of eight; I played as a central midfielder. Then my first professional team was Blackburn Rovers, who I joined a year later, and I was there for something like 12 years.

First football shirt you owned?

It would have been a Liverpool shirt with 'Rush' on the back. It was the white and green chequered shirt, sponsored by Carlsberg.

First pair of football boots?

A pair of black 'Arrow' boots, I don't know how many people will remember them...

First ever game you went to watch?

The first match I have memories of was during the 1994-95 season when Blackburn won the Premiership. It was against Leicester City and Rovers won 3-0 - I remember Alan Shearer and Chris Sutton scored.

First ever Derby County game?

Against Preston North End at Pride Park. We won 3-0 and



Fielding's Derby debut came against Preston

we kept a clean-sheet on my debut.

First date?

When I was either 16 or 17, there was a girl I went to school with and we went shopping in Manchester together.

First car?

A silver Volkswagen Polo. It was so reliable, a brilliant car.

First song?

The first album I remember buying was Nelly - Country Grammar. I must have been about 10 or 11... I loved that album.

First pet?

We had a golden Labrador called Kelly when I was younger. She was my sister's pet, but when she left home we took care of her.

MY LAST

Last fast food meal?

I am struggling here, I can't remember. It was probably a

Domino's pizza after a game a few weeks ago.

Last holiday?

I went to Portugal with Barks and Bray in the summer. We only went for four days before we came back in for pre-season training, it was a brilliant trip though.

Last big purchase?

I am getting married in the summer and I have just put the deposit down for the venue... so probably that.

Last film?

Good question. I watched a film yesterday called Dream House. Daniel Craig is in it; it is a spooky film that has got bad reviews but I thought it was brilliant.

Last night out with the boys?

About three or four weeks ago after the Forest game we went for a night out.

Last time you used public transport?



I went on the train to Birmingham around two months ago, just before Christmas to get some presents.

Last person you texted?

My mate Tommo.

MY EVERYTHING

What makes you happy?

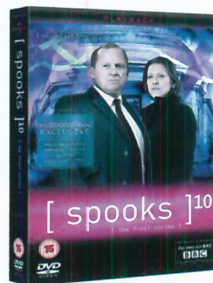
Going back home to see family and friends whenever it is possible.

What is the most important thing in your life?

Getting to play football every day.

How do you relax?

Watching television, walking the dogs and drinking lots of cups of tea. I enjoy watching Spooks, I have been going through the series' recently.



Best thing about being a footballer?

Coming in and having banter with the lads, we have got a great set of boys here. Also just

being a footballer in general, training every day and trying to better myself.

Best holiday?

I really enjoyed a holiday in Dubai, and I also used to enjoy going to see my dad in Malaysia. Nearly every time I went we used to go travelling to Thailand and go somewhere different.

Best feeling in the world?

Derby winning.

Best game?

Against Leeds United last season at Pride Park on Boxing Day when we won 1-0. Another game that stands out is one for Wycombe while I was on loan there, against Shrewsbury Town. It was the last day of my loan spell and we won 1-0. It was a game we were never expected to win so the supporters were buzzing at the end, it was like we had won the World Cup. Come to think of it, that was a Boxing Day fixture too...

Future plans?

I would love to stay involved in the game at any level. What stands out to me the most is working at the Academy level and offering guidance. I have got my FA Level Two coaching badge and I was set to do my Uefa B in the summer, but it coincides with the honeymoon, so I am aiming to do that in the near future.



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Football League Natter

The Football League Paper's Chris Dunlavy writes exclusively for **THE RAM** with his take on the latest Football League news.

Poor Alan Pardew. After pursuing Loïc Remy only to see him sign for QPR last month, the Newcastle boss must feel like the bloke who spends all night buying a girl drinks only to see her pull his best mate. Not that transfer hijacking is anything new, as these transfer U-turns (or should that be L-turns) show.

PAUL GASCOIGNE

In the summer of 1988, aged just 21, Gazza was all set to move from hometown club Newcastle to Alex Ferguson's Manchester United.

He'd done the stadium tour, been round to Fergie's house. He'd even given his word to the Scot, who was about to jet off on holiday. "Go and enjoy yourself Mr Ferguson," said Gazza. "I'll be signing for Manchester United when you get back."

Alas, Fergie was left with sangria on his face when chairman Martin Edwards called to say Gazza had joined Spurs for a British-record £2million.

So what swung it? Well, it seems United skimped on the gifts. As well as offering Gazza



Gazza was lured to Spurs by the perks

a then hefty £2,500 a week, they also chucked in a house in Newcastle for his parents, a BMW with a private reg for his dad and - honestly - a sunbed for his sister. To this day, both Ferguson and Gazza cite the u-turn as their biggest regret.

MO JOHNSTON

Never one to stick too rigidly to his word, Johnston left Celtic for French side Nantes in 1987 vowing never to return to Scotland. Two years later, however, he held a press conference announcing he would be re-signing for Celtic at the end of the season. Fair

enough - anybody can get a bit homesick.

But then, to the disbelief of pretty much everyone, he pitched up at bitter rivals Rangers. Unsurprisingly, this made him public enemy No.1. Celtic fans hated him for his treachery, while Rangers fans deplored his Catholic background. The Rangers kitman even made him sort his own kit, not to mention refusing to offer him tea or chocolate bars at half-time.

Still, the blue half soon came round when his 46 goals in 100 games yielded two League titles.

* The views in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of Derby County Football Club.

ALFREDO DI STEFANO

Has any player ever been more intrinsically linked to a club than Alfredo Di Stefano to Real Madrid? The Argentine's arrival from Columbian side Millionarios in 1953 turned the Spanish outfit into the finest side in the world, and it was thanks to his stunning record of 307 goals in 396 games that they won eight League titles and the first five European Cups. But it could all have been so different.

In early 1953, it was Barcelona who had made the first move. However, with scouts, agents and representatives from Millionarios, River Plate (his former club) and Barca all muddying the waters, Madrid president Santiago Bernabeu nipped in and persuaded the striker to join them instead.

Trouble was, somewhere in the mayhem, Di Stefano had already signed a contract for Barcelona. In the end, the Spanish FA decided he would spend two years at both clubs. Quite why Barca never took up their option has never been deduced.

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head to head ANCIENT AND MODERN

This week **DAVID MOORE** compares two powerful strikers whose all-too-brief top-flight careers with the Rams ended in disappointment, although both of them gave excellent service at Second Division and Championship level with the club.

Manager Colin Addison signed the former from Crystal Palace in 1980 and the latter was snapped up by Billy Davies from Luton in 2006. It's Dave Swindlehurst versus Steve Howard.

THE POSITION - STRIKER
Strikers come in all shapes and sizes but quite often the most effective option up front is a battering ram targetman paired with a smaller, nippier partner; hopefully with an eye for goal. Toshack and Keegan at Liverpool were the prime example for many years.

Derby have had similar, if slightly less famous, pairings too.

Thirty years ago it was Swindlehurst and Biley whilst, far more recently, Steve Howard's striking partners ranged from Paul Peschisolidi and the on-loan Arturo Lupoli to Kenny Miller and, occasionally, the controversial Robert Earnshaw. That's unless the manager asked him to plough a lone furrow.

DAVE SWINDLEHURST

Derby were struggling to hold on to their First Division status when manager Colin Addison

brought Crystal Palace striker Swindlehurst to the Baseball Ground in February 1980. He came on loan initially, but at the end of the season chairman Richard Moore agreed to break the club's transfer record by paying Palace £410,000 for his services.

He actually signed in front of the Baseball Ground faithful before the home game with Manchester City, which the Rams went on to win 3-1 and he was on the scoresheet too. By then he had already struck up a decent partnership with Alan Biley, who had been signed from Cambridge United a few weeks earlier.

They were totally different in almost every respect. Swindlehurst was a big, strong striker and although Biley, a Rod Stewart lookalike and not too dissimilar to Denis Law either, was a decent player in his own right, there was maybe more of the Scottish rocker about him than the King of Old Trafford. Unfortunately their goals were unable to prevent relegation.

ALL-ROUND ABILITY

The experienced Swindlehurst was already a proven goalscorer with Crystal Palace when the Rams signed him from the Selhurst Park outfit and he soon showed that he had lost none of his knack of finding the back of the net with vital goals at Bolton and Ipswich.

Big, strong, brave and surprisingly agile for a targetman, he was a fine striker of the ball as well as being particularly dangerous in the air. He was also quite capable of playing further back in midfield when required.

PRESENCE

The powerful Swindlehurst had no shortage of presence or personality on the field of play. The opposition certainly knew that he was around and even the toughest defenders soon discovered that he could give as good as he got. Unfortunately, he also had enough presence to attract the attention of referees and was sent-off three times whilst with the Rams.

INFLUENCE ON TEAM-MATES

Derby were in desperate need of a big, strong, proven goalscorer if they were to stand a chance of avoiding relegation and the vast majority of Addison's squad must have been relieved when the manager plumped for Swindlehurst. His partnership with the nippy Biley would mean that the Rams had the popular big man, small man partnership up front.

As well as scoring his fair share of goals, 'Swindles' (as commentator Graham Richards insisted on calling him) was particularly skilful



Dave Swindlehurst broke the club's transfer record in joining from Palace for £410,000

at holding on to the ball much to the relief of his overworked defenders who were all-too-often in need of a breather. Unfortunately his never-say-die attitude didn't always spread to some of his less committed colleagues but that wasn't his fault.

WINNING MENTALITY

Swindlehurst's time at Derby was an exasperating one for a player who didn't like to finish on the losing side. His stamina and unflagging spirit had to be applauded, but maybe he put his foot in rather too often out of sheer frustration and that may be one of the reasons why his disciplinary record took something of a nosedive.

Certainly the old label of "southern softie" didn't apply to him and he could never be accused of giving less than 100 per cent right up to the final whistle.

CONSISTENCY

Such was Swindlehurst's consistency that he was never in danger of being dropped from Addison's side. He was rarely out through injury either and most of the matches he missed were because of suspension.

Although, like many strikers, his goals tended to come in bursts with relatively barren spells in between, poor performances were extremely rare.

LEGACY

At the time it was fairly unusual for a London born player to settle 'up north' but Swindlehurst was an exception. He might have decided to look for a return to the capital when his loan period was up, but instead he decided to stay and try and help the Rams return to the top-flight.

Sadly, it didn't work out and Derby's decline gathered pace. He was the leading goalscorer in his second and last season before the club decided to recoup as much money as possible by selling him to West Ham for £160,000. He had done his utmost and that is all you could ask, but his legacy is not an outstanding one, mainly for reasons outside his control.

STEVE HOWARD

The experienced Durham born Howard was already a proven goalscorer when Billy Davies signed him from Luton Town where he had rattled in an impressive 95 League goals in only 212 appearances.

Before joining Luton he had also played for Hartlepool United and Northampton Town so most of his goals had been scored in the lower leagues. He had just turned 30 years of age at the time but Davies was confident that there



Howard was on target at Old Trafford for Derby in the Premiership

were more goals to come at Championship level and, who knows, maybe in top-flight football too if the Rams could achieve promotion.

ALL-ROUND ABILITY

Howard's scoring record in the early years of his career had been a relatively modest one and it was only when he settled at Luton under managers Joe Kinnear and Mike Newall that the goals started pouring in. His strength and bravery, and an unerring eye for goal, were his main attributes.

He had a powerful shot and was excellent in the air and although he had no great pace, his clever positioning often enabled him to get to the ball before the defender. After that he could be extremely difficult to dispossess.

PRESENCE

Howard's height and strength gave him great presence on the field of play and defenders knew that they were up against a formidable striker when he was in top form. He was extremely tough and surprisingly agile for a big man too, which enabled him to stand out, particularly in crowded penalty areas.

INFLUENCE ON TEAM-MATES

Howard's ability to hold on to the ball up front was of enormous benefit to his



Steve Howard was a £1 million signing from Luton in July 2006

Howard did his utmost to rally his troops the following season in the Premiership but, sadly, too few of them were able to respond.

WINNING MENTALITY

There was no doubting Howard's commitment and will to win and he was well respected for it across the club and by supporters. A doughty fighter, he could always be relied on to give his very best for 90 minutes, an attribute which endeared him to everyone including the manager.

Tough, resilient and skilful, he was a proud recipient of the Jack Stamps' Trophy for Player of the Year at the end of the 2006-07 season.

CONSISTENCY

Howard had a slow start with Derby, failing to score at all in the first half dozen League games but after that goals streamed in on a regular basis. Only rarely did he put in a less than effective performance throughout his 43 Championship appearances for the club, and although he was unable to find the back of the net in the Premiership until December (at Old Trafford of all places), only Oakley came close to matching him for consistency.

LEGACY

Howard felt unable to continue to play for Derby

after the departure of Billy Davies halfway through the disastrous Premiership season of 2007-08, but despite that he remained a popular figure with supporters and still is.

His goal at Old Trafford in a 4-1 defeat was rapturously received by the hoard of travelling Derby fans that day, partly because it was the first they had scored away from home all season. It was his first of the campaign too but it couldn't have been scored

by a more popular player. Unfortunately, it was also his last.

THE RESULT

Although Swindlehurst and Howard were similar in many ways and neither left the club on a high, Billy Davies's shrewd acquisition comes out on top in most categories. All the same, Swindlehurst deserves enormous respect for his commitment to the club in extremely difficult circumstances.

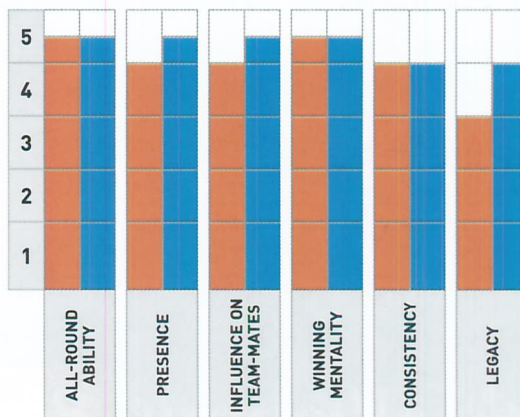
HEAD TO HEAD

SWINDLEHURST

24

HOWARD

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THE SELECTION PROCESS

David Moore has witnessed all of Derby's top-flight seasons since the Fifties, and the players selected are from those that he has seen play for the Rams in the top division. By that definition, this feature will not include pre-War players like Steve Bloomer.

colleagues, particularly the defenders who knew they always had an outlet when the pressure on them was becoming intense.

Many of Derby's victories in their promotion season of 2006-07 were by the single goal and against the general run of play which made Howard arguably the most important player in the side. He had numerous partners up front, but his link-up play with Lupoli was probably the most effective in terms of goals.

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CLUB CONNECTIONS

The football historian highlights four notable links with tonight's visitors Bolton Wanderers for **THE RAM**.



RUSSELL HOULT

Bolton Wanderers' former loan goalkeeper **Russell Houlst** was an important figure in Derby County's 1995-96 promotion success. He joined Bolton on loan from Leicester City in November 1993, making four consecutive First Division appearances in place of Aidan Davison while at Burnden Park. After an impressive loan spell at Derby under Roy McFarland, he became Jim Smith's first signing for the Rams in June 1995 and later shared the goalkeeping slot with Mart Poom. He played 123 League games, moving to Portsmouth in January 2000.



TREVOR HEBBERD

Bolton Wanderers' former loan midfielder **Trevor Hebbard** featured prominently as Derby County finished fifth in the top-flight in 1988-89. Loaned to Bolton from Southampton in September 1981, he helped them to win 2-0 at Derby on his debut and made six consecutive Second Division appearances while at Burnden Park. He joined newly-promoted Derby from Oxford United in an exchange deal involving Mickey Lewis in August 1988 and netted 10 goals in 81 League outings for the Rams, reuniting with Jim Smith at Portsmouth in October 1991.

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FRANCIS LEE

Former Bolton Wanderers striker **Francis Lee** starred in Derby County's 1974-75 League Championship success. He scored on his First Division debut in Bolton's 3-1 victory over Manchester City six months before turning professional in May 1961. Leading marksman on five occasions, he netted 92 goals in 189 League games prior to joining Manchester City for £60,000 in October 1967. The England international moved to Derby for £110,000 in August 1974 and scored 24 times in 62 First Division outings before hanging up his boots.

**ANDY TODD**

Former Derby County central defender **Andy Todd** was Bolton Wanderers' Player of the Year in 1997-98. Following his father Colin from Middlesbrough to Bolton for £250,000 in August 1995, he featured in their 1996-97 First Division title triumph and the 1998-99 First Division Play-off Final, scoring twice in 84 League games before being sold to Charlton Athletic for £750,000 in November 1999. He joined Derby from Blackburn Rovers in July 2007 and scored once in 30 League outings, moving to Australian side Perth Glory in June 2009.

coel wheeler

TEAM BEHIND THE TEAM

This season **THE RAM** will be introducing Derby County's unsung heroes, the staff behind the scenes.

DNA
DERBY NOW ALWAYS



This evening is the turn of Graphic Designer Coel Wheeler. Coel has been at Pride Park for just over a year and is responsible for developing creative ideas and concepts in conjunction with the Rams' in-house branding, and is the man behind the artwork for Derby County's 2013-14 Season Ticket campaign.

Name: Coel Wheeler

Role: Graphic Designer

How long have you been in the role: A year and three months.

Previous experience: I studied graphic design at Nottingham University for three years, and whilst I was there we occasionally had lectures which included guest speakers. One in particular had a representative from XL Recordings, which is the

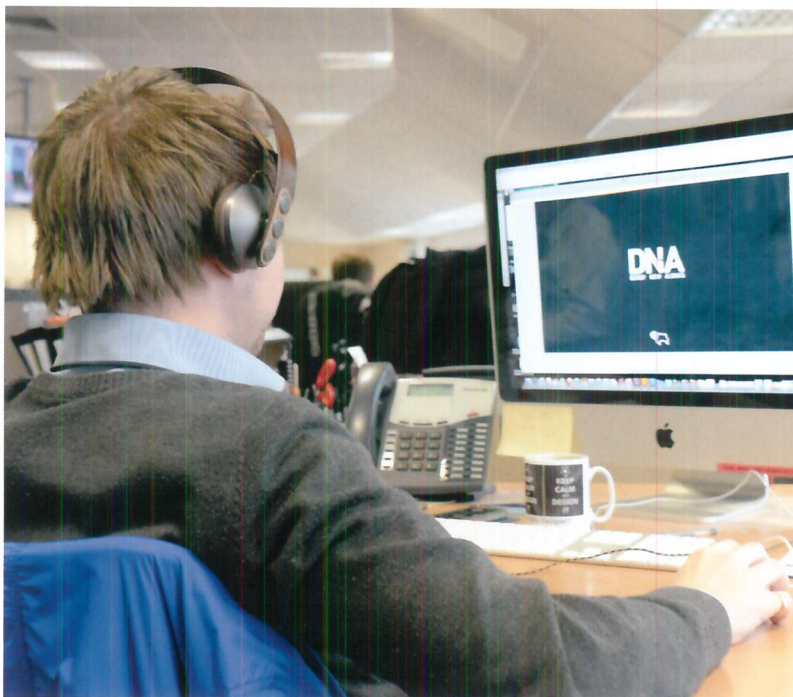
record label for artists such as Adele and Radiohead. Music is the overriding factor of why I got into graphic design in the first place.

Prior to university, I undertook an Art Foundation course and it was at that time when I discovered that artwork on the record sleeves of albums by Joy Division, New Order and Pulp - as well as many others - were all designed by Peter Saville, who I have taken inspiration from over the years.

Then after university I worked at Pendragon PLC for a year, producing artwork for the website, e-shots and flyers.

Brief description of duties:

Apart from pulling my hair out with last-minute requests... I produce a variety of artwork depending on the client and target audience. For instance the players' rule



Coel Wheeler started at Pride Park 15 months ago

book at Moor Farm recently needed revamping, whilst at Pride Park I design projects for A3 posters, flyers and leaflets that are sent out to supporters, a selection of website and programme images, advertisements and banners for both the external and internal jumbo screens.

Also, within the pack that season ticket holders received in the post, I redesigned all the ticket information and tried to make it more aesthetically

pleasing than previous seasons.

How much involvement have you had, and how much did you enjoy, in the procedures behind the launch of the new 2013-14 season ticket campaign?

It has been brilliant to be honest because it is something I have been able to get hold of, put ideas forward, put those ideas on paper and then actually see them through. There

are a few faces behind the campaign.

Firstly, Faye Nixon (Marketing Manager), Angela Allen (Marketing Assistant), Matt Reeder (Multimedia Manager), Mekesh Aietan (Multimedia Assistant) and I discussed some ideas before we eventually decided on 'Derby Now Always'.

From there we looked at concepts within DNA, and from a two-week brainstorming process we presented our ideas to the

Executive team to ensure they were happy for us to go ahead. Throughout the whole campaign, we hope to demonstrate to supporters that we are passionate about this club, and also that we understand that a season ticket is an investment for fans, and acknowledge how much Derby County means to them.

Has your role changed over the course of your time here?

It has, because prior to joining the club, Derby had not had an in-house Graphic Designer, so work was previously outsourced. It has been a gradual process, but staff members are beginning to realise the potential there, in that there is someone they can approach for work.

Also, when I first arrived at the club, on a matchday I was helping Faye with groups and fans arriving at reception. However, at every home game I am now working in the control room with the multimedia team producing content for the internal jumbo screen.

It has been a real eye-opening experience, and has made me realise how much work actually goes on behind the scenes. But it is also very rewarding when you look out of the window and see thousands of supporters fixated on something you have produced.

7
PAUL COUTTS
MIDFIELDER



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tonight's visitors **BOLTON WANDERERS**

It was Wolves at the weekend, now **BOLTON WANDERERS** are here tonight: two clubs from last season's Premier League, each a little edgy over their position in the Championship after less than a year out of the top company.



For Bolton the situation could have been so different. One more goal would have changed everything; a win rather than a draw at Stoke in May last year and The Reebok would still have laid out the welcome mat for the elite of London, Manchester and Merseyside.

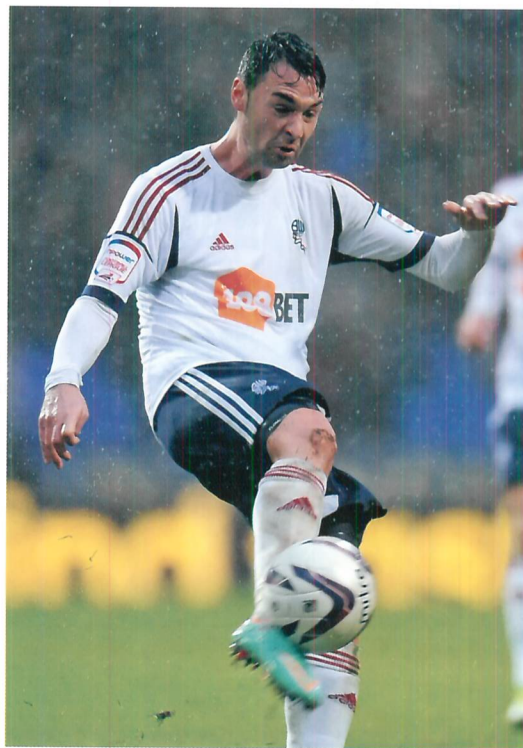
Bolton spent 11 seasons in the Premier League - they were promoted and relegated in tandem with Blackburn Rovers - and so far life in the Championship has presented more problems than they may have anticipated.

Like Wolves, they have changed managers, though only once in contrast to three alterations in a year at Molineux, and again like Wolves, their form dipped in the last two months.

Even at Christmas a late dash towards the play-offs was not out of the question but by February, the two relegated clubs were occupying the positions immediately above the relegation line.

Bolton, though, moved up a few places with a battling win against Burnley and they do have the extra cushion of a home game in hand - against Peterborough United at the end of this month.

Wary but optimistic would seem to be a reasonable summary of Dougie Freedman's response, as reported by the Bolton News, to the big question after a recent defeat at Watford - the fourth in seven games since Christmas-time.



Chris Eagles has scored seven times this season, including one past Derby in August

The time to worry, he suggested, is when you are losing by two or three goals but Bolton, he believes, are not far from the level where we want them to be. "I know I have enough quality in the dressing room to springboard up the table," he said.

Appointed late in October - when Wanderers were 18th

after winning four of their first 13 matches back in the Championship - he arrived at The Reebok with an excellent trackrecord in 22 months with Crystal Palace.

A legend at Selhurst Park from his goal-scoring career with the south London club, he took over a side treading water in the bottom three

and kept them up with six points to spare at the end of 2010-11.

After a solid first full campaign Palace were close to a mid-table position and ready to kick on this season. Freedman won the September manager's award and when he left for the North West his team were in fourth place and soon to move to the top for a couple of weeks under his successor, Ian Holloway.

At Bolton he took over a squad with a sizeable thread of Premier League experience and in some areas stronger than last season with the return of

several players after long-term injuries.

For Bolton this was a major factor in their relegation. Chairman Phil Gartside, in nearly 30 years as a director, went as far as to say he had "never seen a season where we've had such a horrendous injury list."

Some of the casualties are only just becoming available to Freedman. David Wheater, who was close to an England cap when with Middlesbrough, and Stuart Holden, a USA international, appeared in the development squad at the start of the month.



Kevin and Mark Davies have contributed 11 goals between them this term

DIAMOND JUBILEE LINES

60 Years Ago – Wednesday 18th February 1953 – Div. One

	P	W	D	L	Pts
1 Burnley	28	13	10	5	36
10 Tottenham Hotspur	29	11	7	11	29
11 BOLTON WANDERERS	27	10	6	11	26
12 Liverpool	28	10	6	12	26

40 Years Ago – Tuesday 20th February 1973 – Div. Three

	P	W	D	L	Pts
1 Bournemouth	32	14	11	7	39
2 BOLTON WANDERERS	31	16	7	8	39
3 Oldham Athletic	31	14	9	8	37
4 Bristol Rovers	33	13	10	10	36

20 Years Ago – Saturday 20th February 1993 – Div. Two

	P	W	D	L	Pts
1 Stoke City	29	18	9	2	63
7 Burnley	30	12	9	9	45
8 BOLTON WANDERERS	28	12	7	9	43
9 Bradford City	31	11	10	10	43

As Bolton invested in players of this quality, they were considered to have top 10 potential in the Premier League, and it was only two years ago that they were looking comfortable and progressive in such company.

The time when many believe it all went wrong was at Wembley in April 2011. Cup semi-final day: an occasion for anticipation, enjoyment and hopefully a return visit for the final. For Bolton it was despair after a 5-0 defeat.

Within 12 months they were heading out of the Premier League and early this season time was called on Owen Coyle's management term after nearly three years.

This meant a new start under a new man. Freedman

referred to "a new voice with new ideas" as the team adapted to his way of playing.

The style is there and all that is lacking is a consistent run of results. When this happens the manager expects Wanderers to be "more than capable of matching the top teams" in this division.

HERE & THERE

- * Three consecutive wins secured the Manager of the Month award for Owen Coyle last April - six weeks before Bolton were relegated from the Premier League.
- * Bolton lost only one of their last six games - they won one and drew four - but went down after finishing a point behind QPR.



Republic of Ireland international Keith Andrews has top-flight experience

international Player of the Year and enjoying regular Championship action with his second club since leaving Blackburn.

Thrown a lifeline last January by Roy Hodgson on a short-term deal at West Brom, he scored a couple of Premier League goals before starting three games in Euro 2012. Available again during the summer, he gladly signed for Bolton and pinned down a first-team spot, converting four penalties in five games prior to a recent Achilles injury.



Hungarian number one Adam Bogdan

- * Kevin Davies's goal against the Rams in August was the first by a Bolton player in the second tier since Dean Holden scored against Sheffield United in the final fixture prior to the play-offs in 2001.

- * During their 11-year term in the Premier League, Bolton finished in the top 10 for four seasons in a row and twice qualified for the UEFA Cup, reaching the last 32 in 2006 and the last 16 in 2008.

- * Juusi Jaaskelainen was No.1 'keeper for a dozen years (474 League appearances) until leaving at the end of his contract. He signed for former Wanderers boss Sam Allardyce at West Ham.

- * Among the many high-profile players who passed through The Reebok were Nicolas Anelka, bought from Fenerbahce for £8million and after 18 months sold to Chelsea for a club record fee of £15million.

PROFILE

Keith Andrews remembers all too well the time when he was looking for a way out of a football wilderness - not getting a game with Blackburn on returning to Ewood Park after being shipped out on loan to Ipswich in the first half of last season.

Yet little more than a year later he is the newly crowned Republic of Ireland senior

THE BOSS - DOUGIE FREEDMAN

Born: Glasgow, 21st January 1974

PLAYER

Clubs: Queen's Park Rangers (1992-94), Barnet (1994-95), Crystal Palace (1995-97), Wolverhampton Wanderers (1997-98), Nottingham Forest (1998-00), Crystal Palace (2000-08), Leeds United (loan, 2008), Southend United (2008-10)

League record: 520 games, 160 goals

Honours: Crystal Palace (promotion from Division One, 1996-97 & 2003-04)

International: Scotland, 2 (Full), 1 (B), 8 (Under-21)

MANAGER

Club: Crystal Palace (assistant manager, Mar 2010; manager, 2011-12), Bolton Wanderers (Oct 2012 to date)

LEAGUE RECORD (TO 9th FEBRUARY 2013)

Clubs	P	W	D	L	Pts
Crystal Palace	79	25	27	27	102
Bolton Wanderers	17	5	7	5	22
TOTAL	96	30	34	32	124



Dougie Freedman was a prolific goal scorer at Palace

Bolton Wanderers Roll Call - 2012-13 appearances

PLAYER	BIRTHPLACE/DATE	LAST CLUB	LEAGUE APPS	CUP APPS	GLS
Marcos Alonso	Madrid 28.12.90	Real Madrid	10(1)	4	2
Keith Andrews	Dublin 13.9.80	WB Albion	22(3)	2	4
Adam Bogdan	Budapest 27.9.87	Vasas	30	-	-
Cian Bolger	Co Kildare 13.3.92	Leicester City	-	-	-
Craig Davies	Burton 9.1.86	Barnsley	-3	-	1
Kevin Davies	Sheffield 26.3.77	Southampton	25(4)	-3	6
Mark Davies	Wolverhampton 18.2.88	Wolves	20	1	5
Craig Dawson	Rochdale 6.5.90	WB Albion (L)	1	-	-
Steve de Ridder	Gent 25.2.87	Southampton (L)	1(1)	-	-
Chris Eagles	Hemel Hempstead 19.11.85	Burnley	29(1)	3(1)	7
Tom Eaves	Liverpool 14.1.92	Oldham Athletic	-	-	-
Jan Gregus	Nitra 29.1.91	Banik Ostrava (L)	-	-	-
Stuart Holden	Aberdeen 1.8.85	Houston Dynamo	-	-2	-
Medo Kamara	Bo 16.11.87	Partizan Belgrade	-	-	-
Zat Knight	Solihull 2.5.80	Aston Villa	27	4	-
Lee Chung-Yong	Seoul 2.7.88	FC Seoul	18(7)	2(1)	5
Andy Lonergan	Preston 19.10.83	Leeds United	-	4	-
Jay Lynch	Salford 31.3.93	Academy	-	-	-
Tyrone Mears	Stockport 18.2.83	Burnley	23(1)	1(1)	-
Matt Mills	Swindon 14.7.86	Leicester City	16(1)	-	1
David Ngog	Paris 1.4.89	Liverpool	11(7)	1(1)	5
Darren Pratley	Barking 22.4.85	Swansea City	8(8)	3(1)	-
Tim Ream	St Louis 5.10.87	New York Red Bulls	12(2)	2	-
Sam Ricketts	Aylesbury 11.10.81	Hull City	17(1)	3	-
Joe Riley	Salford 13.10.91	Academy	-	2	-
Marvin Sordell	Pinner 17.2.91	Watford	5(6)	3(1)	6
Jay Spearing	Wallasey 25.11.88	Liverpool (L)	24(1)	2	1
Josh Vela	Salford 14.12.93	Academy	1(1)	3	-
David Wheeler	Redcar 14.2.87	Middlesbrough	-	-	-
Gregg Wylde	Kirkintilloch 23.3.91	Rangers	-	-	-
OWN GOALS	-	-	-	-	-

ALSO PLAYED: Benik Afobe (on loan from Arsenal) 5(15) Lge, 2(1) Cup, 3 goals; Jacob Butterfield (on loan from Norwich) 4(2) Lge; Martin Petrov (to Espanyol) 6(8) Lge, 2 Cup, 3 goals; Stephen Warnock (on loan from Aston Villa) 15 Lge

PLAYER FACT

Scored his first Premier League goal last season after four months out with a broken metatarsal

The Irish midfielder went from League 1 with MK Dons to the Premier League at Blackburn and WBA

No.1 for club and country in 2012, replacing Jussi Jaskelainen at Bolton and Gabor Kiraly for Hungary

Irish Under-21 defender, signed last month after 49 League games in three loans at Bristol Rovers

January newcomer after scoring nine goals (four in a match at Birmingham) this season for Barnsley

The heartbeat of Bolton: 10 years' service, club captain from 2008, and more than 80 goals

Last season's Players' Player of the Year, he was out for two months after a shoulder operation in December

England Under-21 and 2012 Team GB defender, he was a top target in January, signed on loan until 27th April

Belgian forward, based in Holland before joining Southampton, now on a month's loan at The Reebok

Ex-Manchester United youngster, a consistent midfield goal-scorer since following Owen Coyle from Burnley

Signed a new contract in January after scoring seven goals in a League 2 loan at Bristol Rovers

Czech Under-21 international, signed in January, after scoring on debut for development team v Manchester City

The injury-hit US World Cup player resumed training in January after one first-team game in 22 months

Sierra Leone international striker who arrived in January after winning championships in Finland and Serbia

One of the tallest defenders around, he was capped twice by England when with Fulham in 2005

Out with a broken leg throughout last season until returning for the last two matches in May

Brought in as No.2 'keeper this season, after being out for nearly two months after a knee operation in October

Originally with Manchester United, understudy goalkeeper when Lonergan was out

Now established at right-back after missing much of his first season because of a broken leg

Now with his sixth club after a seven-figure move, but sidelined by a thigh injury in December

Signed after three seasons at Anfield, having played in a Europa League semi-final in 2010

Left Swansea after a Wembley play-off and took a different route to the Premier League with Bolton

The American defender started 13 Premier League games after arriving in last year's January window

Welsh international defender, out for 10 months after snapping an Achilles tendon in 2011

With Wanderers from the age of nine, making his Premier League bow soon after 20th birthday in 2011

The £3million England Under-21 striker bounded into 2013 with five goals in three FA Cup games

Carling Cup winner and FA Cup finalist last year, now on a season's loan at The Reebok

Recently eased into the first-team after interruptions with foot and knee injuries

Towering England Under-21 defender, on the comeback trail after serious injury at West Brom last May

Released during Rangers' cost-cutting last year, recently back from a loan spell at Bury





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Daily Telegraph journalist and Derby County fan Nick Britten writes exclusively for **THE RAM** with his take on the latest football and sporting news.

COMMUNITY CREDIT

I was at the launch last week of the Burton Albion Community Trust. Not only did it open my eyes to the excellent job the club is doing in the community, but the work football clubs' community trusts do in general.

Here at Derby I can remember not that long ago when the community department was one man and his dog squeezed in next to the old radio station in the south west corner. Now it is a thriving enterprise seen out and about all over the county.

There are 72 football trusts linked with clubs across the country, carrying out a large range of projects through football, from simply coaching the game to helping tackling drug addiction and anti-social behaviour, and helping the homeless.

Coventry have recently started a scheme helping mentally ill men access the services they struggle to



Community Trust Launch at the Preill Stadium. Ft. Community Trust Manager - Andy Taylor

get the care they need. And Charlton Athletic have had such success in helping to engage with youngsters around the Greenwich area that crime and anti-social behaviour has dropped by around 40 per cent; the scheme has gone down so well that the authorities are considering rolling it out across London.

Mixing private and public funding, trusts have engaged with 1.3million people in the last 12 months. One young lady took to the stage at the Burton launch to explain how getting involved with the Trust had helped her

drive her life forward and had given her the confidence to stand up in front of 200 of the local great and good and deliver a speech, which, it is worth noting, she did considerably better than one or two of her more prestigious co-speakers. It was inspiring stuff.

We all know about coaching youngsters to get them involved in sport and away from other, darker influences in their lives. But it was interesting to hear of BACT's Golden Goal project aimed at the elderly population, who we don't necessarily think of being

socially isolated. The idea is to help provide elderly people with company and activity, and with an ageing population it is certainly an idea which has longevity.

At a time when football's reputation lurches from one crisis to another, it was great to see the work clubs do to get involved in their local communities.

You can follow Nick for his latest news and views on Twitter, you'll find him under:

@NickBritten



dcitc DERBY COUNTY IN THE COMMUNITY

THE RAM highlights DCitC's work in the local community.



DERBY COUNTY IN THE COMMUNITY

Address: Derby County in the Community, Pride Park Stadium, Pride Park, Derby, DE24 8XL

Phone: 01332 667575

Website: www.dcitcommunity.com

Email: community@dcfc.co.uk

Facebook: [facebook.com/dcitc](https://www.facebook.com/dcitc)

Twitter: @DCITC_Official

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Community Administrator: carly.burns@dcfc.co.uk

Disability Officer: sam.turner@dcfc.co.uk

FA Disability Cup 2013 | Round 1



Derby County FC

Sheffield Wednesday
Ability Counts FC



24th February 2013 | Kick-off 13.30pm | FREE ENTRY
Belper Town FC | Christchurch Meadow | Bridge Street | Belper | Derbyshire | DE56 1BA
Derby County Community Trust | sam.turner@dcfc.co.uk | 01332 667575

THE FA DISABILITY CUP

Competition is the bedrock of the national game and disabled people have the same desire to take part in high quality competitions as their non-disabled peers.

The current disability player pathway incorporates a variety of competitive opportunities for individuals to participate in county, regional and national competition structures.

The vast majority of county competition structures are pan disability and small sided in nature, whilst strong national structures are in place for impairment specific competitions. Despite this it is clear that there is a gap in the pathway for a national 11-a-side pan disability competition.

For season 2012-13 the FA Disability Cup is

being run as a pilot for adult males and will take the form of a traditional 11-a-side knockout competition, with ties arranged on a home/away basis. The competition will be split into northern and southern sub sections, with the regional winners competing in the overall FA Disability Cup Final in May 2013.

Long-term, it is hoped that the competition will become the FA Cup of Disability Football, positioned alongside other prestigious grassroots FA competitions such as The FA Vase and The FA Sunday Cup. The competition will showcase disability football at its very best - and Derby County in the Community are delighted to show their support towards it.

Derby County's first game in the competition

will take place in Round 1 on Sunday 24th February 2013, against Sheffield Wednesday Ability Counts FC at Belper Town's Christchurch Meadow. Kick-off is at 1:30pm and entry is free to all.

Before kick-off, a raffle will take place to win signed Derby County merchandise while at half-time youngsters in attendance will have the chance to take a penalty against Rammie.

For more information please contact Sam Turner on sam.turner@dcfc.co.uk.

BRACKENSDALE JUNIORS PROGRESS

Every season npower and the Football League Trust team up with community schemes across the country to host two school football competitions.

These events see over 2,500 schools and 20,000 school children competing for the chance to play at Wembley Stadium, but more importantly, just enjoying the opportunity to participate in the beautiful game.

Derby County Community Trust, along with community schemes from the other 71 Football League clubs, held their two local competitions in November 2012 and January 2013.

Derby County Community Trust's local stage of the

Under-11 Kids Cup is a mixed primary age event that is an extremely popular fixture in many schools' calendars, with between 60-80 teams participating each season.

Competition is always fierce, as there is only one place available to progress to the Regional Finals, with the winner of this round going forward to play at Wembley ahead of the npower Championship Play-off Final in May.

Brackensdale Junior School fought off runners-up Scargill Primary to take the crown and play at Leicester City in March in the next round.

Allestree Woodlands School emerged eventual



Allestree Woodlands School celebrate their victory

winners of the npower Football League Under-13 Girls Cup, despite tough competition from 15 other teams from Derbyshire. This win catapulted the girls into the Area Final

of the Girls Cup played at and hosted by Nottingham Forest in the Community, playing against winning schools from clubs such as Notts County, Leicester City and Nottingham Forest to name but a few.

A brilliant display of football and determination allowed the girls to progress to the final of the competition, winning 1-0 against rivals Sheffield United. Allestree Woodlands School Under-13 Girls will be representing Derby County Community Trust in the Regional Final of the competition in February 2013, hoping for a win that will give them the opportunity to play the final at Wembley Stadium.

For more information on the npower Football League Girls and Kids Cups visit: npower.com.



Brackensdale Juniors will play at Leicester in March

Digonex DEAL OF THE WEEK



THE RAMS VS IPSWICH TOWN

South West Upper Cat E

Saturday 6th April
Kick-off 3pm



adult £15

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under 18s £10



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Offer available until 5pm Monday 25th February 2013*

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* Subject to availability

** 0871 numbers are charged at 10p per minute from standard BT landlines, other networks may vary



Ticket News



WATFORD VS DERBY COUNTY

Saturday 23rd February 2013

Kick-off: 3pm

npower Championship

Adults **£26**, Seniors (65+), 16-19 years & students (aged under 25 with NUS) **£15**, Under 16s **£10**

Family area: £26 for Adults, **£15** for Senior Citizens (65+), 16-19 years & students (aged under 25 with NUS) and **£5** Under 16s. Please note these tickets available at a ratio of no more than three children per adult/ senior and party must include one adult and one child.

Disabled supporters: Ambulant disabled fans are required to pay their own age band, with a carer ticket available free of charge. Wheelchair users' tickets cost £15 for adults & £5 for concessions, and includes a carers' ticket free of charge.

Initial allocation: 1,141.

Sale status: Tickets for Derby's trip to Vicarage Road are available on general sale. These are on sale from the Digonex Ticket Office until 5pm the day before the game.

Roadrider: Departs at 12pm from Toyota West Stand car park, with prices set at £14 for members and £16 for non-members.



DERBY COUNTY VS CRYSTAL PALACE

Friday 1st March 2013

Kick-off: 7:45pm

npower Championship

Match category: Silver

Key information: Match tickets for this npower Championship clash against Ian Holloway's Eagles are available on general sale from the Digonex Ticket Office.

Purchases can be made in person from the Digonex Ticket Office, by calling 0871 472 1884 (option 1) or by logging on to

WeAreDerby.com.



Wilfred Zaha and Palace kick-off March's fixtures

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CARDIFF CITY VS DERBY COUNTY

Tuesday 5th March 2013

Kick-off: 7:45pm

npower Championship

Adults **£19**

Seniors (60+) 16-21 Years **£13**
Under 16s **£12**

Family area: Adults £18
& Under 16s **£5** OR Family
Ticket for **£40** (two adults &
two Under 16s)

Disabled supporters: Adult
Wheelchair Users + Carer
FREE £18, Concession
Wheelchair Users + Carer
FREE £10, Under 16
Wheelchair User + Carer
FREE £5

Initial allocation: 1,096.

Sale status: Tickets for Derby's trip to Cardiff City Stadium are available on general sale. These are on sale from the Digonex Ticket Office until 5pm the day before the game.

Roadrider: Departs at 2:30pm from Toyota West Stand car park, with prices set at £22 for members and £24 for non-members.

For more Derby County
ticket news, please visit
dcfc.co.uk

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THE RAMS
VS CRYSTAL PALACE

Friday 1st March
Kick-off 7.45pm



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2 under 18's

£25 1 adult &
2 under 18's

Only available in the Digonex Ticket Office and by calling 0871 472 1884**, Opt1, Opt1
Offer available until 5pm Thursday 28th February 2013*

WeAreDerby.com

* This offer will be available on matchdays but is Subject to matchday price increase

** 0871 numbers are charged at 10p per minute from standard BT landlines, other networks may vary



Next Up At Pride Park



Who? Crystal Palace

When? Friday 1st March 2013

What time? 7:45pm

Tell me more.....

Crystal Palace went into 2012-13 looking to steadily build on their 17th place finish in the Championship last time around - but their rapid rise in the last seven months means they are well in the promotion shake-up with just weeks of the season left to play.

Although the headlines will go to the likes of Wilfried Zaha, Yannick Bolasie and Glenn Murray, and deservedly so, Palace have proved themselves to be a solid unit and a strong all-round side this season.

The likes of Damien Delaney, Peter Ramage and Julian Speroni are just some of their unsung heroes, with the Eagles looking to bring top-flight football back to Selhurst Park for the first time since 2004-05.

Dougie Freedman, regarded as one of the

brightest young managers in the game, oversaw their rise up the table before opting for a move to Bolton Wanderers back in October. The departure of their leader failed to rock the boat at Selhurst Park though, and if anything it galvanised the Eagles to retain their place alongside the division's frontrunners.

To keep their promotion challenge on track, the colourful Ian Holloway opted to pack his bags at Blackpool and return south to continue the good work Freedman had started. He has quickly recognised Palace's talented young crop have the potential to achieve something special this season, but has called upon experience in recent weeks by snapping up two players he knows well in Kevin Phillips and Stephen Dobbie, both of whom have the know how of helping



Glenn Murray is the Championship's top scorer this season



Who's their star man?

Although Wilfried Zaha has grabbed the headlines this season with eye-catching displays for the Eagles, which led to his move to Premier League Manchester United last month, another of their key performers has been striker Glenn Murray.

The 29-year-old has scored 27 goals in 29 games this season, and the targetman has flourished alongside Zaha and Yannick Bolasie in attack.

teams gain promotion to the Premier League.

With only one defeat to their name on home turf going into the latter stages of the season, it would suggest that Palace's home form will remain crucial to their promotion hopes. They had a 'mini-wobble' in January, with only one League win to their name, but kicked off February with a home win over Charlton and a return to the top-flight remains within their sights.

Do they have any ex-Rams?

The only ex-Ram in the Palace ranks is defender Dean Moxey, who spent 18 months at Pride Park after arriving from Exeter City in the summer of 2009. The left-back, now 27, made 58 appearances for Derby before moving to Selhurst

Park during the January transfer window in 2011 after falling behind Gareth Roberts in the pecking order.

What happened last time?

Derby came out on top in a five-goal thriller between the two sides last season, but not without a late scare. Goals from Steven Davies, Jeff Hendrick and Theo Robinson had them 3-0 up just after half-time, but late strikes from Darren Ambrose and Chris Martin pulled the scoreline back to 3-2, to set up a tense finish.

How can I get tickets?

Full details of how to purchase match tickets for this game can be found on page 61 of The Ram or by clicking on to [WeAreDerby.com](#).

EXCLUSIVE EARLY BIRD 2013/14

**0% INTEREST FOR 9 MONTHS ON SEASON
TICKET PURCHASES OVER £219 WHEN YOU
PAY USING A RAMS CARD***

Purchase a **Season Ticket** on a **Rams Card** before
31 August 2013 and you'll benefit from **0% interest**
on that purchase for **9 months**.



REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE

STANDARD PURCHASES: 18.9% P.A. VARIABLE
REPRESENTATIVE APR: 18.9% VARIABLE
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDIT: £1200

*This is for illustrative purposes only and actual total amount of credit may differ.

**APPLY ONLINE TODAY AT
WeAreDerby.com**

Subject to status. Applicants for credit must be aged 18 or over and UK resident. The Rams Card is issued by Sygma Bank UK, a Creation Group Company, Chadwick House, Blenheim Court, Solihull B91 2AA.

***TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** For Season Ticket purchases of £219 or over (after any applicable discount). For the special "no interest for nine months offer", no interest shall then be charged on qualifying Season Ticket purchase(s) for the nine months following the date of purchase(s) provided that the purchase is made before 31.08.13. After the nine month period the interest rate for Standard Purchases applicable to the account is then payable on any remaining balance of the Season Ticket purchase(s). To qualify, Season Ticket purchases must be made via the Ticket Office or online on a valid Rams Card in a single transaction. The promotion may be withdrawn or extended by Derby County at any time without prior notice.

PROMOTER: Sygma Bank UK, a Creation Group Company, Chadwick House, Blenheim Court, Solihull B91 2AA



NPOWER CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE – 18th FEBRUARY 2013

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Cardiff City	31	21	4	6	53	31	22	67
2	Hull City	32	18	5	9	43	33	10	59
3	Watford	32	17	5	10	64	42	22	56
4	Crystal Palace	32	15	10	7	58	40	18	55
5	Leicester City	30	16	5	9	52	26	26	53
6	Middlesbrough	32	16	2	14	51	50	1	50
7	Brighton and Hove Albion	31	11	13	7	43	34	9	46
8	Blackburn Rovers	31	11	11	9	42	38	4	44
9	Derby County	32	11	10	11	48	45	3	43
10	Burnley	31	12	7	12	47	46	1	43
11	Nottingham Forest	32	10	12	10	41	45	-4	42
12	Leeds United	31	12	6	13	41	48	-7	42
13	Millwall	31	11	8	12	41	43	-2	41
14	Blackpool	32	10	10	12	50	47	3	40
15	Charlton Athletic	32	10	10	12	41	44	-3	40
16	Bolton Wanderers	31	9	11	11	44	45	-1	38
17	Bolton Wanderers	30	9	10	11	43	44	-1	37
18	Huddersfield Town	31	9	10	12	33	51	-18	37
19	Sheffield Wednesday	31	10	6	15	38	47	-9	36
20	Ipswich Town	31	9	8	14	33	52	-19	35
21	Wolverhampton Wanderers	31	9	7	15	37	45	-8	34
22	Barnsley	31	9	7	15	36	47	-11	34
23	Bristol City	31	9	4	18	44	58	-14	31
24	Peterborough United	30	9	3	18	43	55	-12	30

CHAMPIONSHIP TOP SCORERS 2012-13

PLAYER	CLUB	TOTAL
Glenn Murray	Crystal Palace	26
Jordan Rhodes	Blackburn	20
Charlie Austin	Burnley	20
Matej Vydra	Watford	19
Tom Ince	Blackpool	17

CHAMPIONSHIP TOP ASSISTS 2012-13

PLAYER	CLUB	TOTAL
Chris Eagles	Bolton	12
Tom Ince	Blackpool	10
Bakary Sako	Wolves	9
Craig Noone	Cardiff City	9
Paul Coutts	Derby County	8

DERBY COUNTY ROLL CALL 2012-13

NO	PLAYER	LGE APPS	LGE GLS	CUP APPS	CUP GLS	TOTAL APPS	TOTAL GLS
1	Frank Fielding	9	0	1	0	10	0
2	John Brayford	32	1	3	1	35	2
3	Gareth Roberts	25	0	3	0	28	0
4	Craig Bryson	26	4	2	0	28	4
5	Jake Buxton	14 (4)	2	1	2	15 (4)	4
6	Richard Keogh	32	2	3	1	35	3
7	Paul Coutts	31	1	3	0	34	1
8	Jeff Hendrick	29(2)	5	2	1	31(2)	6
9	Nathan Tyson	4 (12)	4	1	1	5 (12)	5
10	Jamie Ward	13(2)	9	1	0	14(2)	9
11	Theo Robinson	13 (14)	8	1	1	14 (14)	9
12	Michael Jacobs	11 (19)	2	2(1)	0	13 (20)	2
13	Adam Legzdins	23	0	2	0	25	0
14	Conor Doyle	1 (1)	0	0(1)	0	1 (2)	0
15	Mark O'Brien	6 (3)	0	2	0	8 (3)	0
16	James O'Connor	15 (7)	1	0(1)	0	15(8)	1
17	Tom Naylor	0	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0
18	Ben Davies	3 (6)	1	1 (2)	1	4 (8)	2
19	Will Hughes	31 (1)	2	3	0	34 (1)	2
20	Mason Bennett	0 (2)	0	0 (2)	1	0 (4)	1
21	Valentin Gjokaj	0 (1)	0	0	0	0 (1)	0
22	Michael Hoganson	1 (1)	0	0	0	1 (1)	0
23	Kieron Freeman	4 (6)	0	0(1)	0	4 (7)	0
28	Josh Lelen	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Saul Deeney	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Conor Sammon	29 (2)	6	2	1	31 (2)	7

RAMS PLAYERS OUT ON LOAN

CALLUM BALL, COVENTRY CITY	4(7)	0	3(3)	3	7(10)	3
JAMES BAILEY, COVENTRY CITY	19(1)	2	5(1)	0	24(2)	2
NATHAN TYSON, MILLWALL	-(1)	0	0	0	-(1)	0

CHAMPIONSHIP'S TOP SHOOTERS 2012-13

Club	On target	Off target	Hit woodwork
Blackpool	207	195	18
Bolton	221	169	6
Hull City	191	198	11
Watford	198	185	17
Middlesbrough	189	184	8

Stat Attack

GK = Goalkeeper
RB = Right back
RWB = Right wing back
LB = Left back
LWB = Left wing back
CB = Centre Back
RM = Right midfield

CM = Centre midfield
LM = Left midfield
S = Striker
sub = Used Sub
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Matching colours indicate
players subbed and those
who replaced them.

■ = Yellow Card
■ = Red Card
CC = Capital One Cup
FAC = FA Cup
* = Match sold out
TV = Televised Live



DATE	KO/FA	H/A	OPPONENTS	POS	ATT	REF	SCORERS
AUGUST							
Tue 14	5-5*	H	Scunthorpe United Capital One Cup, Round 1	-	4,724	Mohareb	Keogh 30, Buxton 34, 53, Robinson 40, Barcham 52, Grella 63, Grant 73, 90, Tyson 83, Jennings 90 * After extra-time. Scunthorpe won 7-6 on penalties
Sat 18	2-2	H	Sheffield Wednesday	10th	27,437	Mathieson	Tyson 11, Buxton 27, O'Grady 39, R Johnson 90
Tue 21	0-2	A	Bolton Wanderers	22nd	17,050	Pawson	K. Davies 79, Eagles 90
Sat 25	1-1	A	Wolverhampton Wanderers	21st	21,861	Moss	Doyle 35, Robinson 90
SEPTEMBER							
Sat 1	5-1	H	Watford	14th	20,608	Tierney	Keogh 16, Hendrick 36, Sammon 43, Hughes 52, Ward 67, Vydra 74
Sat 15	0-1	A	Huddersfield Town	20th	15,265	Kettle	Ward 1
Tue 18	3-2	H	Charlton Athletic	9th	20,063	Phillips	Ward 7, 64 (pen), Bryson 53, Green 70, Kermorgant 72
Sat 22	1-2	H	Burnley	17th	21,347	Langford	Ward 20, Austin 32, 89
Sun 30	1-0	A	Nottingham Forest (SKY)	12th	28,707	Madley	Bryson 55
OCTOBER							
Wed 3	2-2	A	Middlesbrough	13th	13,377	Naylor	Robinson 16 (pen), Jutkiewicz 19, 81, Coutts 87
Sat 6	0-0	H	Brighton & Hove Albion	13th	22,059	Woolmer	-
Sat 20	1-1	H	Blackburn Rovers	14th	22,958	Haywood	Rhodes 34, Robinson 88
Tue 23	2-1	A	Ipswich Town	12th	15,417	Madley	Campbell 24, Robinson 40, Tyson 90
Sat 27	0-3	A	Peterborough United	13th	8,427	Hooper	Bostwick 30, Berahino 86, 90
NOVEMBER							
Sat 3	4-1	H	Blackpool	11th	22,271	Russell	Robinson 12, 54, Brayford 31, Ince 49 (pen), Sammon 65
Tue 6	2-0	H	Barnsley	9th	20,808	Coote	O'Connor 69, Tyson 90
Sat 10	1-2	A	Millwall	9th	10,392	Drysdale	Feeney 33, Hughes 53, Keogh 76
Sat 17	0-3	A	Crystal Palace	13th	16,211	Graham	Murray 12, 82, Moritz 58
Sat 24	3-2	H	Birmingham City (SKY)	12th	21,505	Miller	Sammon 32, 80, King 73 (pen), Lovenkrands 82, Tyson 84
Tue 27	1-1	H	Cardiff City	12th	20,911	Brown	Helguson 11, Robinson 69
DECEMBER							
Sat 1	1-4	A	Leicester City (SKY)	16th	20,680	Eltringham	Whitbread 6, Waghorn 23, Robinson 38, Nugent 74, 89
Sat 8	3-1	H	Leeds United	10th	25,034	Mathieson	Sammon 15, Green 45, Buxton 66, Davies 90
Sat 15	2-0	A	Bristol City	10th	12,526	D'Urso	Hendrick 34, Bryson 36
Fri 21	1-2	H	Hull City	10th	25,442	Sheldrake	Koren 25, Jacobs 45, Faye 50
Wed 26	0-2	A	Burnley	12th	13,779	East	Austin 40, Duff 74
Sat 29	1-1	A	Charlton Athletic	11th	17,761	Boyeson	Haynes 19, Ward 72 (pen)

FRANK FIELDING	JOHN BRAYFORD	GARETH ROBERTS	CRAIG BRYSON	JAKE BUXTON	RICHARD KEOGH	PAUL COUTTS	JEFF HENDRICK	NATHAN TYSON	JAMIE WARD	THEO ROBINSON	MICHAEL JACOBS	ADAM LEGZDINS	CONOR DOYLE	MARK O'BRIEN	JAMES O'CONNOR	TOM NAYLOR	BEN DAVIES	WILL HUGHES	MASON BENNETT	VALENTIN GJOKAJ	MICHAEL HOGANSON	KIERON FREEMAN	JOSH LELAN	SAUL DEENEY	CONOR SAMMON					STEVEN DAVIES	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	28	30	32						
AUGUST																															
GK	RB	LB	CM	CB	CB	RM		S		S	LM	U	U			sub	sub	CM	sub					U						U	
GK	RB	LB	CM	CB	CB	RM	CM	S	S	sub	U	U	U		sub			LM	U	sub											
GK	RB	LB	CM	U	CB	RM	CM	S	LM		U	U	U		CB			sub	sub	U					S						
GK	RB	LB	CM		CB	RM	CM	sub	S	sub	sub	U	U		CB			LM		U		U			S						
SEPTEMBER																															
GK	RB	LB	CM	sub	CB	RM	CM	U	S	U	sub	U	sub		CB			LM		U						S					
GK	RB	LB	CM	sub	CB		CM	U	S	sub	sub	U	RM		CB			LM		U		U			S						
GK	RB	LB	CM	sub	CB	RM	CM		S	sub	U	U	U		CB			LM		U		U			S						
GK	RB	LB	CM	CB	CB	RM	CM	U	S	sub	sub	U	U		U			LM		U					S						
GK	RB	LB	CM	CB	CB	RM	CM	U	S	sub	sub	U			sub			LM		U		U			S						
OCTOBER																															
GK	RB	LB	CM	CB	CB	RM	CM	LM		S	sub	U			sub			CM	U	U		U			sub						
	RB		CM	CB	CB	RM	CM	U		S	sub	GK			LB		sub	LM	U	U		U			U	S					
	RB		CM	CB	CB	RM	CM	sub		S	sub	GK	U	LB				LM	U	U		U			U	S					
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NOVEMBER																															
	RB	LB	CM		CB	RM	CM	sub		S	sub	GK		U	CB		U	LM		U		sub		U	S						
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	RB	LB	CM	U	CB	RM	CM	U		S	sub	GK	U	CB		U	LM				U		U		S						
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DECEMBER																															
U	RB			CB	CB	RM	CM	sub		S	LM	GK		U	LB		U	CM	sub		U	sub			S						
U	RB			CB	CB	RM	CM	U		S	LM	GK	U	sub	LB		sub	CM	U			sub			S						
U	RB	LB	CM		CB	RM	CM	U		U	LM	GK	U	CB	sub		sub	CM				sub			S						
U	RB	LB	CM		CB	RM	CM	U		sub	LM	GK		U	CB		sub	CM		U			U		S						
U	RB	LB	CM		CB	RM	CM	sub		sub	LM	GK	U	CB	sub		U	CM				U			S						
U	RB	LB		CB	RM	CM	S	sub	S	sub	GK	U	U	CB			LM	CM				U			sub						



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DATE	KO/FA	H/A	OPPONENTS	POS	ATT	REF	SCORERS
JANUARY							
Tues 1	3-1	H	Middlesbrough	10th	22,523	Whitstone	Jacobs 19, Hendrick 42, Sammon 65, Jutkiewicz 90
Sat 5	5-0	H	Tranmere Rovers FA Cup Round 3	-	11,740	Halsey	Davies 42, Sammon 54, Brayford 63, Hendrick 72, Bennett 87
Sat 12	1-2	A	Brighton & Hove Albion	12th	25,464	Williamson	Barnes 2, Orlandi 25, Hendrick 70
Sat 19	1-1	H	Nottingham Forest	13th	33,010	Clattenburg	Cohen 31, Ward 52
Sat 26	0-3	H	Blackburn Rovers FA Cup Round 4	-	14,013	Attwell	Kazim-Richards 44, Dann 66, Rhodes 71
FEBRUARY							
Sat 2	3-0	H	Huddersfield Town	9th	21,561	Stroud	Bryson 24, Ward 33, Keogh 59
Sat 9	2-2	A	Sheffield Wednesday	10th	25,765	Langford	Hendrick 23, Ward 48 (pen), Antonio 51, Llera 57
Tues 12	1-2	A	Hull City	10th	15,677	Madley	Gedo 47, Ward 84, Elmhady 87
Sat 16	0-0	H	Wolverhampton Wanderers	9th	23,026	Salisbury	-
Tue 19	19:45	H	Bolton Wanderers				
Sat 23	15:00	A	Watford				
MARCH							
Fri 1	19:45	H	Crystal Palace				
Tue 5	19:45	A	Cardiff City				
Sat 9	15:00	A	Birmingham City				
Sat 16	17:20	H	Leicester City (SKY)				
Fri 29	19:45	H	Bristol City				
APRIL							
Mon 1	17:05	A	Leeds United (SKY)				
Sat 6	15:00	H	Ipswich Town				
Sat 13	15:00	A	Blackburn Rovers				
Tue 16	19:45	A	Barnsley				
Sat 20	15:00	H	Peterborough United				
Sat 27	15:00	A	Blackpool				
MAY							
Sat 4	12:45	H	Millwall				
Sat 11			FA Cup Final				

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THE RAM

Editor: Tom Loakes

Assistant Editor: Joe Questier

Creative Editor: Matt Reeder

Contributors: Nick Britten, David Moore, Mike Wilson

Photography: Andy Clarke, PA Photos, Action Images
 The Ram is designed and produced for Derby County Football Club by Ignition Publications.

DERBY COUNTY FOOTBALL CLUB

Pride Park Stadium, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8XL.

T: 0871 472 1884

E: derby.county@dcfc.co.uk

W: www.dcfc.co.uk

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Tonight's Squads

DERBY COUNTY

MANAGER: NIGEL CLOUGH



1	FRANK FIELDING		
2	JOHN BRAYFORD		
3	GARETH ROBERTS		
4	CRAIG BRYSON		
5	JAKE BUXTON		
6	RICHARD KEOGH		
7	PAUL COUTTS		
8	JEFF HENDRICK		
9	NATHAN TYSON (OUT ON LOAN)		
10	JAMIE WARD		
11	THEO ROBINSON		
12	MICHAEL JACOBS		
13	ADAM LEGZDINS		
14	CONOR DOYLE		
15	MARK O'BRIEN		
16	JAMES O'CONNOR		
17	TOM NAYLOR		
18	BEN DAVIES		
19	WILL HUGHES		
20	MASON BENNETT		
21	VALENTIN GJOKAJ		
22	MICHAEL HOGANSON		
23	KIERON FREEMAN		
30	SAUL DEENEY		
32	CONOR SAMMON		

BOLTON WANDERERS

MANAGER: DOUGIE FREEDMAN



1	ADAM BOGDAN		
2	TYRONE MEARS		
3	MARCOS ALONSO		
4	MATT MILLS		
5	TIM REAM		
7	CHRIS EAGLES		
8	KEITH ANDREWS		
9	DAVID NGOG		
11	GREGG WYLDE		
12	ZAT KNIGHT		
14	KEVIN DAVIES		
15	CRAIG DAWSON		
16	MARK DAVIES		
18	SAMUEL RICKETTS		
19	MARVIN SORDELL		
20	JAY SPEARING		
21	DARREN PRATLEY		
22	STUART HOLDEN		
23	JOE RILEY		
24	ANDY LONERGAN		
25	JOSHUA VELA		
26	ROB LAINTON		
27	CHUNG-YONG LEE		
28	CRAIG DAVIES		
29	JAN GREGUS		
31	DAVID WHEATER		
32	TOM EAVES		
33	ADAM BLAKEMAN		
34	JAY LYNCH		
35	JOE MCKEE		
36	CIAN BOLGER		
38	SANMI ODELUSI		
39	ALEX MCQUADE		
42	STEVE DE RIDDER		
44	MEDO		

PRESENTED BY



... THE POWER
TOOL EXPERTS

the officials...

REFEREE:
GAVIN WARD
ASSISTANTS:
ROB JONES AND
STEVEN MEREDITH
4TH: NICK HOBBIS



VS.



npower
CHAMPIONSHIP

Next Up At Pride Park Stadium

DERBY COUNTY V CRYSTAL PALACE

Friday 1st March, npower Championship

Kick-off: 7.45pm

See page 61 for full ticket details or visit

WeAreDerby.com to buy online.



Log on to Rams Player, Derby County's premium online service, to watch all the action and post-match reaction from tonight's game. Rams Player provides exclusive Rams content throughout the season with interviews, match highlights and live match commentaries. Visit dffc.co.uk to subscribe for just 10p a day



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... THE POWER TOOL EXPERTS

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Kick off your career in the sports industry!



What's Your Goal?

Work experience competitions brought to you by
npower and The Football League Trust.

If you're in year 10 or 11 you now have the opportunity to win a fantastic 4 day work experience placement at your local Football League club during the 2013 Easter holidays.

For those of you in years 7 to 11 enter our competition in January for your chance to spend a day with one of 11 amazing mentors from the world of football.

Competitions close on Friday 1st March 2013 - so don't delay!

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**WHAT MOBILE
Awards 2012
WINNER**
BEST ONLINE RETAILER



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